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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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'VCP', 'VOPB' REPORT ON COMBAT NEWS

Shan, Kachin Areas

BK311030 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese to Burma 0030
GMT 31 Oct 82

[Text] Combat news from Central Shan State:

On 6 October, an attack by a small unit of the people's army near (Ho Yok) resulted in one enemy soldier being wounded. Also, on 9 October, a guerrilla attack by a small unit of the people's army killed one enemy soldier and wounded two others.

On 13 October, an attack by a small guerrilla unit of the people's army at (?Pangling), east of Mong Kung, resulted in one enemy soldier from the military government's mercenary 8th infantry regiment being killed and two others wounded. A similar attack in (?Pangling) on 18 October wounded another enemy soldier.

Combat news from northeast of Myitkyina:

On 19 October, people's militia units attacked the enemy force which had come to plunder and burn (Hnae) village, (Ngazundaung) Township, Lauhkaung region. The enemy fled leaving behind three corpses and a seriously wounded mercenary.

Shan State

BK131339 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese to Burma 0030
GMT 13 Nov 82

[Text] Combat news:

On 30 October, an attack conducted by a small unit of the people's army near Na-hkam in Mong Nim region killed 8 enemy soldiers and wounded 10 others.

Combat news from the Shan State Army [SSA]

On 17 July, an attack by a small SSA unit at (Saing Mong) in (Wanawng) killed four enemy soldiers and wounded four others of the military government's mercenary 99th infantry regiment.

On 28 July, some mercenaries were killed and wounded when the SSA attacked (Wan Taik).

On 2, 4 and 5 August, small units of the SSA conducted five attacks at Pa-sa, (Nan Nawng), (Nawng Pet) and (Man Heinsai) in Nawnglong-Langhko area, resulting in five, including a mercenary major, being killed and five wounded.

On 8 and 27 September, small SSA units attacked the military government's mercenary 22d, 83d and 99th infantry regiments near (Ho Mein), (Kunhka) and (Nawnghein), resulting in four enemy soldiers being killed and five wounded.

On 11 October, the SSA clashed with troops from the mercenary army at (Panlaw) in Mong Ngawnm, resulting in one enemy soldier being killed and two wounded.

Southern Wa Region

BK060904 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese to Burma 0030 GMT 7 Nov 82

[Text] On 26 October, a small unit of the people's army made a guerrilla attack on the military government's mercenary 76th infantry regiment between Panghka and (?Yu) in southern Wa region. Four enemy soldiers were killed in the attack.

Three G-2's and several rounds of ammunition were seized from the enemy.

Combat news of the Shan State Army [SSA]

On 4, 6 and 22 January, small SSA units made four attacks on the military government's mercenary army--on the road between Kongland and (Saimun) in Nawngghpa area, at Maklang, at (Saimun) (?in Maklang) area, and at (Lekkyi Nawk Pwi) (?in Maklang) area. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the attacks and seven others were wounded.

On 12 and 22 February, small SSA units made two attacks on the military government's mercenary 22d and 23d infantry regiments--one at (Yankin) in (Seng Kiao) area and another at (?Wan Hkang) in (?Pongwo) area. Two mercenaries were killed and two others were wounded in the attacks.

On 14, 17 and 29 March, attacks made by small SSA units on the mercenary army at (Kyiko), at (Nam Hsengnam)-(Namkho), at (Wan Namsaw) and at (Tawng Ponna)-(Tawng Sayleik) resulted in 11 enemy soldiers killed and 7 others wounded. A carbine, a G-2, a G-4 and almost 100 rounds of ammunition were seized from the enemy.

On 8 and 20 April, two attacks by small SSA units--at (Kong Yawng) and at (Tet Hlaing)--resulted in two enemy soldiers killed. On 5 May, an attack by a small SSA unit on the military government's mercenary 99th infantry regiment between (?Wan Lawng) and (Sai Hkawng) resulted in an enemy soldier killed and another wounded. It was also learned that on 9, 10 16 and 24 June, guerrilla attacks by small SSA units at (Konghko), (Ho Huk), (Kong Paw) and (Sai Hkawng) resulted in five enemy soldiers killed and four others wounded.

CSO: 4211/7

GANDHI ASKS FOR HALT TO COMMUNAL, REGIONAL FEUDS

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

SRISAILAM, Oct. 29.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today asked the people to stop quarrelling in the name of religion, caste and regionalism at a time when the country is faced with external and internal pressure to swerve from the path of socialism and democracy.

These quarrels had become the "weak spot" of the country, threatening its unity. The country's efforts to fight poverty were thwarted by such bickerings, she said addressing a public meeting after dedicating to the nation the first 110 MW unit of the Srisailem hydro-electric project. She unveiled a plaque and declared open an air-conditioned control room in the power house.

The Prime Minister later dedicated to the nation at Dowleswaram, near Rajahmundry in East Godavari district, the Rs. 78.33-crore 4.6 km long barrage on the Godavari. One of the largest barrages in the world, the Godavari barrage is intended to replace the 123-year-old anicut downstream. The Prime Minister announced that the new barrage would be named after Sir Arthur Cotton, who had made a notable contribution to the development of irrigation in Andhra Pradesh. (details on Page 9).

Making an oblique reference to the regional parties, Mrs. Gandhi said in a large country like ours, every State had its own culture. It had a lot to give to others and a lot to get from others as well. It could not exist in isolation. "Development can take place when we feel we are part of a larger whole that is India. We have to see local problems in the national context and national problems in the international context".

The Prime Minister referred to the revised 20-point programme as an effort to provide a new life to the weakest of the weak and said that although much had been done, much more remained to be done because "many people still are deprived of the benefits of development". Unless the base of the country was made stable and stronger, it could not afford to progress.

New temple of modern India

She recalled how her father, Nehru, described the Srisailem project, for which he laid the foundation in 1963, as the "new temple of modern India" and said she felt proud and privileged to commission it. It was a symbol of inter-State (Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka) and international cooperation, she said, referring to the \$100 million (Rs. 90 crores) Saudi Arabian aid.

Mrs. Gandhi singled out the engineers and workers for praise because the project was being executed entirely with indigenous effort. It was delayed for want of funds, although expertise and capability were available within the country. Engineers needed to be complimented on having successfully accomplished a task which even foreigners had ruled out as impossible.

Her speech in English was translated into Telugu by Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, External Affairs Minister.

The Chief Minister, Mr. K. Vijayabaskara Reddi, welcoming the Prime Minister, said the event marked fulfilment of a long-cherished dream of the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly those of Rayasaseema. He announced one month's salary to the workers as ex-gratia to mark the occasion.

He sought the good offices of the Prime Minister for an early clearance of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (to irrigate arid areas of Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts) and Srisailem Left Branch Canal (to serve Cuddapah and Kurnool districts).

After landing by helicopter from Hyderabad, Mrs. Gandhi drove to Srisailem, where she was received with temple honours. She performed abhishekam to Sri Mallikarjunaeswamy and Kumkumarchana to Sri Bramaramba.

The second 110 MW will start generation in a month's time, according to a senior project officer. The first unit was already connected to the State grid and was on date generating 80 MW.

REPORTAGE ON EEC PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDIA

Thorn's Remarks in Brussels

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Oct 82 p 5

[Text]

BRUSSELS, Oct. 29.—Mr Gaston E. Thorn, President of the European Economic Commission, has expressed the hope that his visit to India next week would further strengthen Indo-EEC links, reports PTL.

Asked if the community's common agricultural policy, which had enabled the EEC to increase the member countries' output of farm products enormously, could be duplicated elsewhere, Mr Thorn replied: "Of one thing, I am certain, in agriculture India has little to learn from anybody. By your own Green Policy you have achieved selfsufficiency in cereals—an achievement of which many industrial countries, for example the Soviet Union, must surely be envious."

Mr Thorn was also asked what areas apart from "operation flowers" were promising for EEC action in India's development. (The EEC gives surplus butter and milk powder to help India expand its dairy programme.)

The President said, "First of all, let me say how pleased I am with the success of the 'milk flood' operation. In this, the community's contribution provides a perfect example of the way in which food aid can be made to serve long-term rural development. But community aid is not limited to one single area. Witness, for example, the EEC-India agreements for jute and coconut fibres, and also the textile and clothing arrangements which were concluded on September 27, and resulted in significant improvements over previous agreements."

Mr Thorn said the EEC's industrial tariff was among the lowest in the world and it was clearly up to India not only to make full use of the community's Generalized

Scheme of Preferences but also to make special efforts to export quality goods to compete in the Common Market which was "an open market".

Mr Thorn denounced protectionism as a "deadly weapon",

and hoped that the ministerial conference of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva next month would be utilized by the industrialized nations to create "a new climate of confidence among all world's trading partners."

Mr Thorn emphasized that a sense of urgency should be injected into the North-South dialogue. While the EEC must continue to shoulder the burden as the major motivator of the dialogue, ensuring strong American involvement in the dialogue was a "major diplomatic priority".

His contacts with the Indian Government, he was convinced, would contribute positively to the strengthening of the North-South dialogue, Mr Thorn said.

The Brandt Commission, which met in Brussels in September, should continue to play "the role of mediator with maximum effect," he said.

"Our (EEC) efforts in this respect have been far more substantial than those of Japan and the USA, let alone those of the Eastern bloc. But let us be quite clear about one thing: without the Americans, our efforts are condemned to failure, for without the USA there can be no possibility of improving the climate of confidence within which the North-South dialogue must develop. Ensuring strong American involvement in the dialogue is thus for us a major diplomatic priority," he said.

India-EEC Trade Imbalance

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Oct 82 p 6

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Efforts To Step Up Exports to EEC"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct 30

A strong case will be made out during the talks with the President of the European Commission, Mr. Gaston Thorn, who is arriving tomorrow on a week long visit to India, for increased Indian exports to the European Economic Community (EEC) to offset the adverse trade balance following the liberalisation of imports.

Though the EEC constitutes the largest export market for Indian goods amounting to nearly Rs. 1,600 crores a year, the imports from the member countries of the Community exceed Rs. 2,600 crores, leaving an annual trade gap of roughly Rs. 1,000 crores, a staggering burden for a developing nation.

During 1980-81, the EEC imported from India, goods worth Rs. 1,417 crores and exported various items amounting to Rs. 2,476 crores, leaving an adverse trade balance of Rs. 1,059 crores. The detailed figures for 1981-82 are not yet available, but the position could be somewhat worse in the sense that many projects had lately been awarded to European firms, leading to increased imports in the shape of capital goods and other equipment.

Special consideration: The EEC continues to maintain that India receives special consideration in many other ways, to compensate for this disadvantage, while steps are taken to narrow down the trade gap by intensifying both commercial and economic cooperation in many spheres. It has been stressing that the member States of the Community were by far India's greatest source of development assistance, exceeding the help given by the Soviet bloc or the United States.

But, the Indian argument is that unless there is greater access to the European markets for its products, it would be impossible to bridge the trade gap, let alone increase economic cooperation.

For example, India had run into trade deficits during 1980-81 to the tune of Rs. 337 crores with Britain, Rs. 300 crores with West Germany, Rs. 151 crores with Belgium, Rs. 90 crores with Italy, Rs. 63 crores with the Netherlands, Rs. 60 crores with France and Rs. 56 crores with Greece. It was only with Denmark and Ireland that the country had a token surplus of just Rs. 1 crore.

Another sore point with India has been that it has been receiving from the EEC as such, only \$ 50 millions (Rs. 48 crores) as grant for agricultural and rural development, while it is entitled to a much larger slice of the total funds allocated for aiding the Non-associated States. So the impression that the EEC has sought to create that as the largest developing country India was also the prime beneficiary of its benevolence is not borne out by these facts.

Mr. Thorn will hold talks on these aspects with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the Commerce Minister, Mr. Shriyaji Patil, who is directly concerned with EEC trade. He will also be meeting representatives of FICCI, and the

Indo-EEC Chambers of Commerce to discuss the prospects for increased Indian exports and make a formal announcement of the decision to open an EEC office in Delhi.

After his talks in Delhi, Mr. Thorn will visit Madras, Trichy, Tirumangur and Udaipur on a sight-seeing trip, before proceeding to Nepal.

Our London Correspondent reports:

EEC is the world's largest trading bloc responsible for nearly 40 per cent of the world's trade, as compared to U.S. 13 per cent, Japan's eight, USSR's 3.8 and India's 0.53 per cent only five years ago.

Within the Community, the U.K. remains the major market for Indian goods, with just over seven per cent of India's total exports in 1980. But the U.K.'s share has been declining, while that of West Germany has been rising.

Agricultural products account for approximately one-quarter of the EEC's total imports from India. Manufactured products, which include textiles (cotton and jute fabrics, clothing and carpets), leather, diamonds and a range of metal manufacturers, make up the rest. The Community's exports to India consist mainly of machinery of all kinds, transport equipment, chemicals and other manufactured products. They also include foodstuffs and vegetable oils. Some of these shipments are under the EEC's food aid programme, while others represent commercial transactions.

Indian officials talk monotonously and often nervously about quota and tariff barriers. It is not realised that tariff preferences in themselves are not enough. Exports, especially of new items, must be promoted, often vigorously. The Community even operates a programme of technical and financial aid designed to help developing countries undertake trade promotion.

The India Trade Centre, a product of this policy was inaugurated in Brussels on February 29, 1980. It is a clearing house of information to Indian exporters and European importers. The EEC has contributed some \$2 millions over a three-year period for the Trade Centre. It is directed by Indian advisers and the sectors covered include engineering products, electronics, leather and leather goods, jute, cow and textile products.

Apart from this, various Indian export promotion councils have their representatives and offices in major West European capitals and there are the commercial departments in diplomatic missions in all European capitals.

But the fact is that, despite these facilities at huge cost to the Indian tax payers (in most cases commercial and economic sections are the most neglected areas both in terms of personnel and facilities) India's share of the Community's trade has declined.

The trade promotion programme also includes visits by trade missions, holding of workshops and seminars and Indian participation in trade fairs and exhibitions. Indian manufacturers are always attracted by trade fairs and there is good participation. But in terms of actual business transacted there is nothing to write home about. The blame obviously lies on the Indian side.

It is venial that despite India's boast of being the third largest reservoir of trained manpower in the world, the quality of personnel manning the trade and diplomatic missions abroad is no better than that of Third World African and Asian countries.

New Delhi Dinner for Thorn

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Nov 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, November 1.

THE president of the European Economic Commission, Mr. Gaston Thorn, tonight suggested the broadening of the dialogue between India and the EEC at the political level.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honour by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the head of the EEC's main administrative agency reiterated his firm belief in the North-South dialogue, favoured an open world trading system and welcomed the new economic co-operation agreement between India and the EEC.

Mrs. Gandhi hoped that India and the EEC would work out arrangements for enhanced co-operation in economic and other fields to their mutual benefit and the benefit of the whole world.

Mrs. Gandhi welcomed certain positive elements in the current thinking of the EEC on North-South relations and hoped that the EEC would adopt new approaches for co-operation with the developing countries.

Mr. Thorn said the new agreement was the most ambitious the EEC had signed with any country and had paved the way for the EEC's future co-operation in a wide range of key economic sectors for India's further development.

The second major step would be the opening of the EEC's long-awaited diplomatic mission in New Delhi which would strengthen the world-wide network of the commission's delegations and facilitate daily contacts between them through diplo-

matic channels.

Mr. Thorn said that the EEC and India, though situated on opposite sides of the world with different traditions and history, had many fundamental points in common.

IMPORT POLICY

Welcoming India's decision to liberalise its import policy, he told Mrs. Gandhi: "Your choice was difficult but your decision is farsighted."

Mr. Thorn said: "We know that many developing countries are worried by the upsurge, in recent years, of East-West confrontation and by the dramatic effects this is producing on North-South issues." He said the EEC shared these preoccupations.

The EEC, on its part, remained committed to an open world trading system, governed by internationally agreed rules, and was striving hard to ensure a successful conclusion to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ministerial meeting later this month.

Mr. Thorn had talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the minister of state for commerce, Mr. Shivraj Patil. Later, he paid a courtesy call on the vice-president, Mr. M. Hidayatullah, and also met Mrs. Gandhi.

In his talks with Mr. Shivraj Patil, Mr. Thorn reassured India that the EEC stood for free trade and the commission was fighting protectionism both within and outside.

Mr. Patil requested the commission president for restoration of the earlier sugar quota in view of increased production in India.

1 November Talks Reported

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Nov 82 pp 1, 16

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 1.—India today asked the European Economic Community to increase imports from it and warned that continuation of the liberal import policy followed in the last few years depended on efforts to maintain a trade balance.

Talks on Indo-EEC trade were held when Mr Gaston Thorn, the visiting president of the Commission of the European Communities, met Mr Shivraj Patil, Minister for Commerce. He later called on the Prime Minister.

Mr Patil told Mr Thorn that it was in the interest of both parties to increase their economic exchanges and close the large trade gap against India. He said that India had made substantial imports from the EEC as part of its liberal import policy.

This policy could not be continued unless India could meet the burden of the foreign exchange payments by increasing exports. Imports of sophisticated machinery, and other items from the EEC would depend on higher export earnings from the Community.

Mr Thorn assured Mr Patil that the EEC stood for free trade and was opposed to protectionism but said that it was not always possible to maintain an arithmetical balance in their trade.

The EEC leader spoke of various measures taken to promote Indo-EEC trade and to make pos-

sible the entry of Indian goods into European markets. The EEC had, for instance, given aid to enable the opening of an Indian trade centre at Brussels. A series of seminars and buyers-sellers meetings were being organized in European cities with EEC assistance.

The two leaders discussed co-operation in the fields of industry and science and technology and agreed that this could lead to development of mutual trade.

Regarding an Indo-EEC sugar agreement which also came up during the discussion, the Commerce Minister requested restoration of the earlier sugar quota in view of the increased production in the country.

The two leaders discussed the question of a new textile agreement between India and EEC within the framework of the Multifibre Arrangement.

On the prospects for the GATT Ministerial meeting scheduled to open in Geneva on November 24, they took note of the prevailing recession and low trading activity on the world scene.

EEC as a block, is India's largest trading partner accounting for over a quarter of both the exports and imports of this country. The balance of bilateral trade has been consistently unfavourable to India except in 1978. India's exports to EEC were worth Rs 1,417.7 crores, against imports of Rs 2,476 crores in 1980-81.

European Bank Funding

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Nov 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 2.

The European Economic Community has decided, on India's request, to examine closely the possibility of extending the activities of the European Investment Bank to projects of common interest, according to Mr. Gaston Thorn, President of the European Economic Commission.

Speaking at a luncheon at the India International Trade Fair today, he said a European Commission delegation and a press and information office would be opened here to put on a more concrete and secure footing relationships between the two, he added.

Conference on investment: The European Economic Community will hold a conference here in January next to encourage European industrial investment in four major sectors — automobile components, electronics, telecommunications and engineering plastics, Mr. Gaston Thorn said.

Mr. Thorn called for reforms to make global trade and financial relations "as predictable as possible", but did not regard this month's Ministerial conference of GATT in Geneva as promising any breakthrough on the trade front.

Mr. Thorn was speaking at the inaugura-

tion of the Council of EEC Chambers of Commerce in India — a new body reflecting the growing Indo-EEC relationship. EEC is also opening shortly a diplomatic mission which will work closely with the embassies of the Community member-States and the Government and other agencies in India.

"Common purpose" theme: Making "common purpose" between EEC and India as the theme of his address, Mr. Thorn said that at a time when the world was riven by political and economic tensions, India was "well placed to make a unique contribution as it stands at the crossroads of East-West and North-South."

The objective of the EEC-India cooperation programme was to help Indian industries make a general dent in the Community markets, he said.

Open trading in danger: Stating that the open trading system was in real danger, Mr. Thorn said the problems were as much for the developing countries as for the developed countries. International solutions were needed. Internal adjustment must be pursued, but it is not enough. Indeed, pursued in an uncoordinated fashion, it could make the problem worse", he said. — PTL.

CSO: 4600/1253

REPORT ON EEC PRESIDENT'S 3 NOV ACTIVITIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Nov 82 pp 1, 7

[Text]

European Economic Commission president Gaston Thorn has ruled out further EEC 'concessions' to India.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Mr Thorn informed that already 93 per cent of India's exports enjoyed some concessions or other, and added: "We are running short of concessions".

He asserted that it would be suicidal to resort to protectionism in the backdrop of the deep world economic crisis. He clarified that although every country or group of nations was guilty of protectionism to some extent; the EEC record was the best as it had adopted a policy of least 'protectionism and exclusivity'.

The EEC, he declared, was and would continue to be a market open to everyone and 'wide open to the Third World, especially India'.

Asked to explain what he meant by 'political relationship' with India, he said: "Although we are in the Western alliance we as a community have to find our basic identity. We have no intention to play politics". This was the basis on which a durable relationship could be built between the EEC and India, a leading member of the non-aligned movement.

Mr Thorn described his talks with Indian leaders as 'most rewarding'. On his meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he said, "We have a common feeling that India and Europe

are turning a new page, have closer ties and are working closer together."

Mr Thorn also had meetings with the Ministers of External Affairs, Commerce and Finance. During the course of these meetings "we discussed general political topics as well as our bilateral relations."

The North-South dialogue, the forthcoming GATT ministerial meeting and the state of the world economy also came up at the talks.

Mr Thorn noted that an agreement for textiles had been initiated recently offering security of access to the Community market and improvement in quotas, both in terms of quantity and quality.

The door was, however, open to India to come in and exploit these favourable conditions by improved marketing, quality control and product mix', he added.

Mr Thorn speaking at the inauguration of the council of EEC Chambers of Commerce in India, said he did not regard this month's ministerial conference of GATT at Geneva as one promising any breakthrough on the trade front.

EEC is also opening shortly a diplomatic mission which will work closely with embassies of the community member states and government and other agencies in India.

Mr Thorn spoke of the growing cooperation between EEC and India which he described as "a giant among developing countries," a "major industrial power," as also a country with a low average income in material terms. But India had the greatest potentiality for growth.

The objective of the EEC-India cooperation programme was to help Indian industries make a general breakthrough into the community markets. "We aim to help bring together potential business partners, and identify the scope for increased economic cooperation, whether in the marketing of Indian products in Europe, or in developing capabilities in the Indian market, or, finally, in the development of export capabilities elsewhere in world markets." He expected it would soon lead to a new series of tangible industrial ventures.

CSO: 4600/1258

REPORTAGE ON GANDHI MEETING WITH PAKISTAN PRESIDENT

Stand on Kashmir

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Two-dimensional Approach To Meet Pak. Stand on Kashmir"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27.

A two-dimensional approach will be adopted by India in future if Pakistan is bent on raising the Kashmir issue in any substantive form during the current on-going dialogue in an attempt to side-step the Simla agreement and rake up the old UN resolutions.

It is highly unlikely that the Kashmir question will come up for any discussion, other than a mere mention of the problem, during the brief meeting between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the Pakistan President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq next Monday in Delhi.

But India has to be ready with its strategy for matching any arguments that Gen. Zia might advance in a passing reference to the Kashmir issue, if only to rebut the criticism of his critics at home that he had more or less reconciled himself to the present position.

Bilateral talks: The Indian stand has been that, since the Simla agreement enjoined the two countries to "settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon between them," the main effort should be directed at settling all outstanding issues, including Kashmir, without any outside involvement, in the true spirit of this agreement.

However, Pakistan has been maintaining that the reference to other mutually agreeable peaceful means, read in the context of the qualifying provision in the Simla agreement that the "principles and purposes of the charter of the United Nations shall govern the relations between the two countries", entitled it to invoke the relevant UN resolutions on the Kashmir question.

In other words, Pakistan had been claiming that, instead of precluding this right, the Simla agreement has further reinforced its contention that the issue should be settled in accordance with these resolutions, if it could not be resolved through bilateral negotiations.

The Indian view is that a purposeful effort should be made to settle this problem bilaterally on the basis of the existing political realities and the indisputable legal position that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union by virtue of its initial accession and subsequent confirmation through successive general elections.

No right to insist: The commitment that India made to hold a plebiscite, after Pakistan had unconditionally vacated its aggression, was a unilateral assurance given to the United Nations. It did not ipso facto confer on Pakistan the right to insist on an implementation of this unilateral assurance, while it remained in illegal occupation of nearly one-third of the State.

What is conveniently glossed over by Pakistan in accusing India of not abiding by this assurance is that the UN resolutions specifically called upon Pakistan to withdraw its troops from the occupied territory as a *sine qua non* for India holding the plebiscite under international supervision.

So if Pakistan, which has no locus standi at all in this respect, is still bent on invoking these UN resolutions, it should first unconditionally withdraw from the occupied area which is a condition precedent for proceeding with the next stage of their implementation.

Not upheld by UN: The UN has not upheld the Pakistani position that it can continue to retain the occupied territory, while pressing incessantly for the fulfilment of the remaining provisions of these resolutions.

It was to help Pakistan get off this hook that India insisted on replacing the old ceasefire line with the Line of Actual Control in the Simla agreement to open the way for a political settlement on the basis of the existing realities through bilateral negotiations.

The late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had himself hinted during the Simla conference in 1972, that

after he had integrated the occupied Kashmir into Pakistan, he would be in a position to initiate discussions at an appropriate time for settling the Kashmir issue on the basis of its de facto division.

So India is not going to let Gen. Zia get away with the propaganda, if he raises this issue at his meeting with Mrs. Gandhi on Monday, that it was going back on its earlier commitments to hold a plebiscite.

The question of when and in what manner the pledge to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmir people can be carried out, will be discussed with the UN only after Pakistan has met the essential pre-condition of vacating its aggression.

No acrimony: As Pakistan is well aware of the Indian position, Gen. Zia is not going to engage in any acrimonious argumentation on this sensitive issue during his brief meeting with Mrs. Gandhi, since it is equally in his interest to keep up the impression that the two countries are moving towards better understanding in their mutual interest.

If Gen. Zia has any new ideas on the subject Mrs. Gandhi will be happy to consider them. The intention is not to preclude a discussion, but only to discourage Pakistan from attempting to put back the clock by 34 years and talk in terms of the out-dated resolutions of 1948 rather than the realities of 1982.

Mutual Expectations

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Zia Views Delhi Visit a Major Event"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 29.

The Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq's stop-over in Delhi on Monday for a talk with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is assuming a wider dimension as more information comes through that he is viewing the meeting as a major event in the Indo-Pak diplomatic efforts under way for better relations.

From the Indian side, too, more importance is being attached now to the Indira-Zia discussion in the hope that it would lead to some substantive progress instead of confining the dialogue to the atmosphere of it.

The Prime Minister has written to Gen. Zia a few days ago expressing the hope that he would permit the ailing Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, who is reported to be suffering from cancer, to go abroad for medical treatment. She has assured him that, in making this humanitarian appeal, India was not attempting to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

No agenda: Though there is no agenda as such for the talks, it is pretty certain that Gen. Zia will press for an early conclusion of a no-war pact as a first step towards a peaceful settlement of all other issues including the Kashmir question. But the Indian side will continue to maintain that its proposal for a comprehensive treaty of friendship, peace and cooperation, providing the necessary political framework for permanently abjuring the use of force, should receive prior consideration.

The idea of a Joint Commission has run into similar difficulties because India wants it to deal with primarily economic issues while Pakistan has been trying to introduce political overtones by insisting that the Commission should be competent to handle all bilateral matters including politico-military problems. It would not be surprising if Gen. Zia indicates during these talks his readiness to accept the

Joint Commission proposal in its limited context as an opening gambit, if he is reasonably confident of extracting a reciprocal concession by India to sign a simple no-war pact, leaving the treaty idea out for the present.

The Prime Minister will not let go the opportunity to draw Gen. Zia's attention to the impropriety of the new wave of anti-Indian propaganda in Pakistan in the wake of the recent communal riots in Meerut. The purpose of voicing India's displeasure is to draw attention to the fact that, in publicising these unfortunate incidents, the press in Pakistan was making no mention at all of the strong steps the Government was taking to put down communal violence.

The Indian side would also like to know what Pakistan was doing about the Indian defence personnel in detention. The photographs of 45 Indian POWs who are known to have been captured alive and kept in Pakistani prisons have been supplied by the Indian embassy in Islamabad several months back, despite the continued denial by Pakistan that it had no information about them.

Follow-up discussions: A significant feature of the Zia visit is that the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Niaz Naik, and the Chief of Staff of the Pakistan President, Lt. Gen. K. M. Arif, will be staying on for two more days for follow-up discussions. They will be present in Delhi when the protocol on consular relations, offering each other access to the Indian and Pakistani prisoners held by them, will be signed after the Zia visit.

Gen. Zia might also utilise the opportunity to sound Mrs. Gandhi about the prospects of Indian support for Pakistan's re-entry into the Commonwealth during the next heads of Government conference in Delhi. The Indian position has been that since Pakistan had misused its membership in the past for raising up bilateral issues in this international forum, no

useful purpose would be served by re-admitting the country in the absence of adequate evidence that it would refrain from such activity in future.

The Pakistan President will be accompanied by an entourage of as many as 75 on his South-East Asian visit. But only nine of them will be present and available for consultations if required during his talks with Mrs. Gandhi during the stop-over in Delhi. These include the Foreign Minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan, the Finance Minister, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Production Minister, Lt. General Saeed Qadir, the Communications Minister, Mr. Moheyyuddin Beluchi, the Chief of Staff to the President, Lt. Gen. Anif, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Abdul Rahim, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Niaz Naik, and the head of the South Asia Division, Mr. Abdul Sattar, besides the Ambassador in Delhi, Mr. Riaz Piracha.

The Prime Minister will be assisted by the

External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Minister of State, Mr. A. A. Rahim, the Principal Secretary, Dr. P. C. Alexander, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, the Secretary in External Affairs dealing with Pakistan, Mr. Netwar Singh, and the Indian Ambassador in Islamabad, Mr. K. D. Sharma. But two or three other senior Ministers will be invited to the lunch by Mrs. Gandhi in honour of Gen. Zia to balance the guest list.

Courtesy call on Zail Singh: The Pakistan President will arrive at 10-30 a.m. and after the airport reception he will be driven to Rashtrapati Bhavan, accompanied by the Vice-President, Mr. M. Hidayatullah, while Mrs. Gandhi will follow in another car with Gen. Zia's wife. After he has paid a brief courtesy call on the President, Mr. Zail Singh, who will have returned the previous night from the United States, Mrs. Gandhi will arrive at 11-30 a.m. to begin the discussions.

Content of Talks

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "India, Pak Agree To Set Up Joint Commission"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 1.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan agreed today to the establishment of an Indo-Pak. joint commission and directed the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries to meet in December in Delhi for rapid conclusion of the "modalities and formalities" in this regard.

This was the major outcome of the hour-long meeting that Mrs. Indira Gandhi and General Zia Ul Huq had in Delhi during the Pakistan President's three-and-half-hour stopover in Delhi.

The two heads of Government also decided that the Foreign Secretaries would consider at the same time the Pakistani draft of a non-aggression pact and the Indian draft of a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation, when they meet in Delhi next month to finalise

the scope and purpose of the joint commission.

It was also agreed that Mrs. Gandhi and Gen. Zia would continue their discussions when they meet during the non-aligned summit in Delhi in March next year to review the progress of these official-level talks on the three inter-related issues.

Self-defeating

The Pakistan President had come with the idea of arriving at an accord, if possible, on the simultaneous establishment of a joint commission and the conclusion of a no-war pact, leaving the third proposition for a treaty of friendship to be settled in due course. But he evidently realised that India would prefer a step-by-step approach by starting off with the joint commission which had already been agreed to in principle by Pakistan.

At one stage Pakistan wanted the joint commission to be empowered to deal not only with economic and cultural issues but also political and military problems. It was pointed out by India that the commission was basically an economic forum and any attempt to widen its scope would be self-defeating in the sense that the Pakistani bid to invest it with the additional responsibility of dealing with politico-military issues would frustrate the very purpose of it.

It remains to be seen whether, in agreeing to the establishment of a joint commission as a starting point for further consideration of the other two proposals for a no-war pact and a treaty of friendship and peace, Gen. Zia has finally reconciled to the Indian idea of treating this primarily as an economic forum, or the earlier attempt to infuse political and military overtones into it would be revived when the Foreign Secretaries meet in December to finalise its modalities.

Sensitive subject

A significant feature of the Indira-Zia meeting today was that neither the Kashmir question nor the Afghan problem was raised by the President of Pakistan, either for want of time or as a matter of discretion. The only sensitive subject that was touched upon during the one-hour conversation was about Mrs. Gandhi's letter to Gen. Zia requesting him to let Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto go abroad for medical treatment.

Gen. Zia maintained that a medical board had to be set up to examine Mrs. Bhutto under the very rules framed when her husband was Prime Minister, which were uniformly applicable in the case of all seeking clearance for proceeding abroad for medical treatment. As a special case, he said, he was prepared to summon at Government expense any foreign doctor named by Mrs. Bhutto to examine her and arrange the necessary treatment.

But he held out no assurance at all that she would be allowed to go abroad if any foreign doctor certified that she needed special medical attention that was not available in Pakistan. He seemed to imply that her illness was wholly or partly political and her request had to be dealt with in that context.

Cordial atmosphere

Otherwise the talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere with both sides exercising the utmost care to avoid any offence to each other while spelling out their respective positions on various issues. A brief joint statement was issued saying that they "discussed bilateral matters" and also "reviewed" regional and international issues without specifying the subjects other than announcing the decision to set up the joint commission.

Mrs. Gandhi was assisted by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, while Gen. Zia had with him his Foreign Minister, Mr. Shabazade Yaqub Khan. The other members of the two delegations met separately in an adjoining room for an exchange of views on what were later described as matters of mutual interest.

There were no talks, formal or informal, during the luncheon given by Mrs. Gandhi in honour of the Pakistan President. The presence of 11 invitees on either side precluded any serious exchanges in continuation of the earlier discussions.

But as arranged earlier, Mrs. Gandhi accompanied Gen. Zia in the same car to see him off at the airport. It enabled them to have a private chat during the 15-minute drive, if there was anything they wanted to communicate to each other in confidence.

A beaming Gen. Zia said at the airport, before embarking for Bangkok, that "we had an excellent meeting and, God willing, it will pave the way for better Indo-Pak. relations". He seemed very satisfied with the outcome of his meeting with Mrs. Gandhi, when he added: "We had a heart-to-heart exchange of views" which he stressed would pave the way for better cooperation. "We are looking forward", he said, "to very good, close and happy relations between India and Pakistan".

The Pakistan President was accorded a very warm welcome on his arrival exactly at 10-30 a.m. by the Vice-President, Mr. M. Hidayatullah, Mrs. Gandhi, her Cabinet colleagues, Service Chiefs and senior officials with the minimum of formalities and maximum of security arrangements. He was driven to Rashtrapati Bhavan after the introductions to pay a courtesy call on the President, Mr. Zail Singh, who returned to Delhi only last night after heart surgery in Houston. The Prime Minister arrived at 11-30 a.m. to begin the hour-long talks and the meeting adjourned precisely at 12-30 p.m. for the luncheon.

The Chief of Staff to the Pakistan President, Lt-Gen. K. M. Arif, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Niaz Naik, are staying on for two more days for informal discussions, before rejoining Gen. Zia's party in Kuala Lumpur for the rest of his South-East Asian visit. They will be present when the Indo-Pak. protocol on consular relations is signed tomorrow in Delhi.

UNl reports

More than 100 members of the press corps — Indian as well as foreign — were herded into a special enclosure at the technical area of the Palam airport. They could not get access to Gen. Zia because of very tight security arrangements.

Within five minutes of his arrival, he was driven in a six-door, bullet-proof limousine along with Mr. Hidayatullah to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Seventy-four persons, including 17 girls, courted arrest outside the Pakistani Ambassador's residence here protesting against the visit of Gen. Zia.

Protocol on Consular Access

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Indo-Pak. Accord on Access to Detenus"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 2.

A protocol on consular access, providing for exchange of information about the nationals of either country under arrest, detention or imprisonment, was signed today by India and Pakistan to carry forward the process of normalisation.

It was signed by the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, and the Pakistani Ambassador in Delhi, Mr. Niaz Piracha, in the presence of the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra and Mr. Niaz Naik, and the Chief of Staff of the Pakistan President, Lt. Gen. K. M. Arif, who had stayed on in Delhi for follow-up discussions.

The two Governments have agreed, under this protocol, to compile comprehensive lists of those under detention, discuss the modalities for the release of those who had not been convicted or completed their sentences and exchange at regular intervals of information about those who are arrested in future.

The exception would be those held for political or security reasons and requests for information about or access to such persons would be dealt with on merits. But the Government arresting or holding such persons in detention would be obliged to convey its decision to the other within four weeks from the date of receipt of the request.

The Government of India believes that at least 300 Indian nationals, including 45 Defence personnel missing since the 1971 war are under detention in Pakistan. The Pakistan Government, too, has been maintaining that a comparable number of its citizens are also held in Indian jails for various reasons.

The first information about a dozen Indian nationals languishing in jails in Sind for the past

several years under pitiable conditions came, strangely enough, through a disclosure of their plight by a Pakistani newspaper published in Karachi. After vigorous protests by the Indian Government, these persons were released and flown back to Delhi.

The Government of India then took the initiative for a consular protocol and after negotiations lasting a year the two countries agreed to sign it. The new arrangement would entitle the two Governments to ask for the necessary information, exercise the right of access to interview the detained persons and even arrange for legal assistance when charged with specific offences.

The protocol says: "Each Government shall give consular access on a reciprocal basis to nationals of one country under detention provided they are not apprehended for political or security reasons or offences. Requests for such access and the terms thereof shall be considered on merits by the Government arresting the persons or holding the detenus or prisoners and the decision on such requests shall be conveyed to the other Government within four weeks from the date of receipt of the request".

The two Pakistani officials — Mr. Niaz Naik, and Lt. Gen. Arif — will be returning tomorrow to Islamabad after further informal exchanges with senior Indian officials.

The limited accord reached at the talks yesterday between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the Pakistan President, has been well received in the diplomatic circles here. Though it was not being hailed as a breakthrough in Indo-Pak relations, the decision to set up a joint commission is seen as an important step towards better relations.

CSO: 4600/1252

PAPER COMMENTS ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Oct 82 p 8

[Editorial: "Verdict on India"]

[Text]

It may be something to be thankful for that Amnesty International's latest report does not claim any significant deterioration since the end of 1981 when the organization noted that "the right to life and freedom from torture was not effectively protected in India", and expressed misgivings about the use of the National Security Act. But it has again voiced concern over reports of torture in police custody, deaths in staged encounters, and over the use of preventive detention measures to suppress the Government's critics in a report that seems to provide more details than the last one. According to Amnesty, 1,500 people were held under the NSA up to December 20, 1981, the largest number being in Uttar Pradesh and Manipur. Amnesty also, apparently, drew Mr M. G. Ramachandran's attention to the alleged torture of Naxalite prisoners in Tamil Nadu, and to the deaths of 21 people in police custody.

That these disquieting findings are not entirely without factual basis would seem to be confirmed by other sources. Tamil Nadu's dismal record of jail and police administration was virtually admitted by the Union Minister of State

for Home when he told the Lok Sabha that the highest number of prison deaths (52) between January 1981 and last March was in Tamil Nadu. Assam ranked second with 16 fatalities, the difference providing more than a little cause for anxiety. Of the 52 prisoners who died in Tamil Nadu, only 28 succumbed to natural causes according to the State Government's own admission. Its silence about the other 24 could be ominous. Mr Ramachandran's Government also enjoys the unflattering distinction of probably being the only one to have had to answer allegations in the Supreme Court of systematically destroying the nervous system of Naxalite prisoners. But in spite of this evidence, it might be unfair to single out Tamil Nadu since conditions are not much better in the rest of the country. That as many as 1,291 dacoits were killed in Uttar Pradesh last year (including 299 between November 18 and December 28 following the Deoli carnage) again tends to confirm misgivings about fake encounters.

New Delhi rejected Amnesty's 1981 accusations by loftily pointing out that Indian law provided adequate protec-

tion for human rights and dignity. So it does. But the grim truth is that the poor who suffer most usually have neither any knowledge of legal safeguards, nor the confidence or resources to invoke them. While police brutality derives from a colonial tradition that has been compounded by its modern functions, judicial and administrative officials, especially in the interior, are often far too venal to afford any kind of protection. It is no secret, for instance, that "third degree" methods, though illegal, are an inseparable feature of police investigation not only for criminals but also for political offenders, which makes preventive detention measures—ostensibly meant for the former but as often used against the latter—even more repugnant. This is not to deny that conditions in India are far more humane than in many of the 121 countries listed where torture, summary executions and prolonged incarceration is the norm rather than the exception. But horrendous conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Argentina or Chile should offer no comfort to a civilized country that is sufficiently shamed by being included in such company.

SINO-INDIAN TALKS HELD LIKELY BY END DECEMBER

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Nov 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 2

The next round of official-level talks between India and China on the border question will be held towards the end of December or in early January in Beijing depending on mutual convenience.

The Indian Ambassador to China, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, has had a preliminary exchange of views on tentative dates during a brief discussion with the Director of the second Asia Department, Mr. Chen Zhaoyuan, on the subject.

The Government has taken the initiative to suggest that the third round of these talks should be held soon if only to dispel the impression in Beijing that India was dragging its feet and unduly delaying the resumption of these discussions. The two sides are now considering mutually suitable dates to keep up the continuity of these talks at the six-monthly interval despite the fact that no progress had been made during the first two rounds in coming to grips with the substantial aspects of the border problem.

Not in a hurry: But the Chinese side also does not appear to be in any great hurry to have the third round because of the reorganisation of the department concerned in the Foreign Ministry in Beijing dealing with Sino-Indian relations. The Asia Department which was bifurcated into two in 1980 has been merged into one again.

The former Chinese Ambassador to India, Mr. Chen Zhaoyuan, who has been heading the second Asia Department since his return to Beijing in 1980, has relinquished charge and is due to be given some other assignment. The combined Asia Department is now headed by the former Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Liu Shuping, who is an expert on subcontinental problems.

But he is not so closely acquainted with Sino-Indian border problems as Mr. Chen Zhaoyuan who participated in the last two rounds of official level talks, apart from the fact that he had served as Ambassador in Delhi.

There is equal uncertainty whether Mr. Fu Hao, who headed the Chinese delegation to the last round of talks in Delhi would be associated with the next round, or Mr. Han Nianlong, who as Vice-Minister in charge conducted the first round in Beijing would be entrusted with this responsibility again.

Though on the Indian side, too, there have been some changes, the present Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. S. Balpatil, has served in Beijing as Ambassador and has been associated with the first two rounds of talks, while the Joint Secretary in charge of the China Division, Mr. Ranjit Sahi, will provide the element of continuity on the Indian side. The new Indian Ambassador in Beijing, Mr. Venkateswaran, is an old China hand with considerable knowledge of the border problem.

Apart from these personnel factors involved in this ongoing Sino-Indian dialogue, the two sides now realise that a stage has been reached when they cannot go on skirting the basic aspects of the border problem by talking in generalities about the prospects for an overall settlement. It is for this reason that the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhao Ziang, stressed recently the need for adequate preparation before the third round to be able to move forward to the stage of detailed discussions.

Package proposals: The Chinese maintain that they have put forward the package proposals for an overall settlement which has subsequently been interpreted to imply that the proposed accord should cover not only the territorial aspects of the border dispute but also other inter-related political issues stemming from it. If this approach is not acceptable to India, they would like to know whether it has any alternative ideas that are equally comprehensive and acceptable to both sides.

The Indian delegation will have to come to some firm conclusion first whether the time is

indeed ripe for putting forward alternative suggestions and, if so, what in its view would be a fair solution. If it is able to formulate its negotiation position before the commencement of the next round, the dialogue could be carried forward to probe the Chinese mind and get an idea of how far Beijing would be prepared to go to arrive at a reasonable settlement.

The next round has thus come to assume special importance because of the tactical and substantive factors that would be involved in the approaches of the two sides. If the Chinese preference is to shelve the border dispute for the present if it could not be settled on other terms, the Indian stand has been to react with utmost caution to the plea for normalisation in other spheres, without coming forward with any concrete counter-proposals for resolving the border problem.

The next round of talks will have to be directed at overcoming these psychological fears and inhibitions to clear the way for a more purposeful dialogue on the border problem. The two sides cannot be expected at this stage to disclose their final fall-back positions, but they could at least spell out their negotiating positions in a less ambiguous manner free from any false assumptions about the concessions they might make eventually to arrive at a settlement at the right moment.

CSO: 4600/1251

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT PLANS

Controversial Issues Discussed

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Oct 82 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy: "Can Delhi Summit Steer Clear of Controversial Issues?"]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 25. As host to the forthcoming nonaligned summit conference, India is going to face a series of embarrassing problems which might impair its bilateral relations with countries bent on exploiting this forum for propagating different causes.

A lot of canvassing is going on behind the scenes, with the encouragement of some Western powers and others opposed to the Soviet Union, to muster enough support for reopening the question of Kampuchean representation at the summit conference.

The supporters of the recently formed Democratic Kampuchean Coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk have been making an all-out bid to get the U.N. seat now held by the deposed Pol Pot regime transferred to it.

If they succeed in this effort, then the battle will be carried to the non-aligned forum for reversing the Havana decision to keep the Kampuchean seat vacant. It will be highly embarrassing to India if, in the teeth of its bitter opposition, ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and other countries which have been highly critical of the Vietnamese intervention, manage to tilt the scales in favour of the Sihanouk-led coalition much to the chagrin of the Heng Samrin regime.

A report from Singapore today quoted Prince Sihanouk, claiming in a press interview given in New York, that Bangladesh and Pakistan were ready to recognise his new coalition. Many African countries were also stated to be reconsidering their position, implying that they might back his bid to represent Kampuchea at the nonaligned summit in the event of a UN decision transferring the seat to the Democratic Coalition.

'Compromise proposition': Another move is underway, in the garb of a compromise proposition to avoid an open conflict on this issue, to let the representatives of both the Heng Samrin regime and the Sihanouk coalition with

neither taking the seat on the floor of the plenary session. There have been reports that Prince Sihanouk intends to apply for an Indian visa to be present in Delhi during the conference to establish contact with various heads of Government.

As one of the very few countries that have recognised the Heng Samrin regime, India cannot identify itself with any move that directly or indirectly casts a reflection on the legitimacy of it or questions its competence to represent Kampuchea at this summit.

But in its capacity as host to the conference, India cannot block a debate on the issue or take any pre-emptive step to forestall a decision in favour of seating the Sihanouk coalition or at least permitting the prince to address the summit as one of the two claimants to press his case, without denying a similar opportunity to the present Phnom Penh Government.

A no less vexing controversy relates to the split in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) over the Polisario's representative status either as an independence movement or as a duly constituted government of a Western Sahara State.

As the majority of non-aligned members are African States, the sharp division of opinion on this issue in the OAU is threatening to spill over to the summit conference in Delhi putting India in the unenviable position of having to take a stand on it.

Venue of next summit: An equally perplexing situation will be created if Iran openly opposes the understanding already reached to hold the next summit in Iraq which agreed to waive its right to host the current summit only on the basis of a firm assurance given by Cuba that a resolution would be adopted to this effect in Delhi. The Iranian Government has indicated that it would insist on leaving the venue of the next summit in abeyance if the rest of the non-aligned community is reluctant to go back on the commitment already made by Cuba on behalf of the entire movement.

These are many such prickly and perplexing issues which can lead to unpleasant controversies before, during and after the Delhi summit. The Indian strategy is to focus attention on higher issues concerning the entire mankind without getting bogged down in divisive issues.

The Prime Minister and her advisers appear to be reasonably confident of steering the summit safely through all these whirlpools of controversy by highlighting the more fundamental challenges facing the nonaligned movement and concluding the summit on a promising note without getting caught up in the coils of dissension. The strategy is to lay the primary stress on unity at a time when the community is threatened much more by its own fratricidal strifes than by the machinations of the big powers bent on dividing it.

Expected Attendance, Dates

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] An estimated 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit beginning in Delhi on 7 March next year, reports PTI.

According to indications available with the Ministry of External Affairs about 75 of the 97 member countries of the movement are expected to be represented by Heads of State or Government. Participation by the remaining nations will be at the level of Vice-Presidents or Foreign Ministers.

In addition, there are 20 countries and organisations which have observer status and 18 others with guest status. Venezuela and Colombia, which had observer status at the Havana Summit have sought membership of the movement according to External Affairs Ministry sources.

The summit will be preceded by a meeting at the senior officials level on 1 and 2 March and of Foreign Ministers on 3 and 4 March. The leaders of State or Government will start arriving on 5 and 6 March for the summit which will last from 7 to 12 March.

The Non-aligned Coordination Bureau is meeting in Nicaragua in January primarily to discuss developments in Latin America nations. External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao will be attending the meeting the sources said. The bureau is also expected to discuss issues coming up at the summit.

With only four months to go for the summit, preparations are on to meet logistic problems.

A special task force has been set up to organise a foolproof security system for the foreign heads both at Vigyan Bhavan, the venue of the conference and all hotels where they will be put up.

Similar groups have been created to look after accommodation, transport and communication facilities for the delegates.

In addition to the fleet of imported cars which will be released after the Asiad, the External Affairs Ministry hopes to acquire more from Iraq which had placed orders for them before the venue of the Summit was shifted to Delhi.

Team for Iraq

Mr K. Natwar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and secretary general for the Summit is leading delegation on a four-day visit to Baghdad from 4 November. The delegation which will include officials dealing with communications, publicity, protocol and security will also explore the possibility of buying certain equipment for use during the Non-Aligned Summit which will be the largest gathering of heads of state or government to be held in India.

The political and economic committees have already held several meetings to prepare the drafts which will be circulated and discussed with member nations before the Summit.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has selected the Summit logo which resembles a tree consisting of five 'peepal' leaves representing the five principles of the movement arranged around the figure seven for the Seventh Summit with a dove in the centre.

Mrs Gandhi will be sending a formal invitation to the member countries of the movement and others in the next few days, the sources said.

Apart from arrangements for the 2,000 delegates, facilities are also being provided for about 1,000 foreign correspondents and cameramen expected here to cover the Summit.

Mubarak To Attend

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has informed Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that he would lead his country's delegation to the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit to be held in the Capital next March, reports UNI.

In a letter to Mrs Gandhi, Mr Mubarak said he had decided to attend the conference since no member country was expected to raise the question of Egypt's suspension from the Non-Aligned Movement.

Egypt felt the question had been finally dropped at the Non-Aligned ministerial meeting in New York earlier this month.

Some Arab countries had raised the issue of Egypt's suspension after it signed the Camp David accord with Israel four years ago. To avoid any controversy, then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had kept out of the Havana Summit.

Besides dwelling at length on the problems facing the Non-Aligned Movement, Mr Mubarak also apprised Mrs Gandhi of the latest developments in West Asia including the situation in Lebanon. He underlined the urgent need for ending the Iran-Iraq war.

He said India was today in an admirable position to assume chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Dr Alaravi said that at the Non-Aligned meet, Egypt would support the Palestinians' rights. However, it would stick to the Camp David accords since this way Cairo could force Israel to the negotiating table.

Mr Mubarak expressed the view that by her visits to the United States and the Soviet Union this year, Mrs Gandhi had demonstrated to the world that India maintained a balance in its relations with the two great powers.

Egypt's ambassador to India Nahil Alaravi brought President Mubarak's letter to Mrs Gandhi.

'Arafat Comments to PTI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Oct 82 p 9

[Text]

TUNIS, October 26 (PTI).

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, Mr. Yasser Arafat has said that his organisation wanted the forthcoming non-aligned summit meeting in New Delhi to make a determined effort for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and to combat what he called Israeli expansionism.

After meeting the Indian external affairs minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and some other foreign ministers of non-aligned countries over the weekend, Mr. Arafat told PTI correspondent, M. K. Razdan, in an exclusive interview. "We expect a lot from the New Delhi summit. We are preparing some very important resolutions and also moves on different levels, inside the movement as well as on the international level."

Determined but looking sad, in the aftermath of the bloodbath in Lebanon, 51-year-old Mr. Arafat said he believed that non-aligned movement had an important role to play in ensuring that Palestinian people got justice. The movement "has got strong weight all over the world."

Mr. Arafat said there was no doubt in his mind that New Delhi summit was quite important for the Palestinian cause. "We are waiting for it," he said. Asked whether he would attend it, he said he hoped to.

Though the Palestinian leader is far from the blazing guns of the frontline, he has not relaxed his security, which was evident as all the foreign ministers who had gathered here had no inkling till the eleventh hour "when

and where their meeting" with him would take place.

Adjusting his shining revolver in his holster in the well-furnished room in a hotel in suburbs of Tunis where the interview took place, the PLO chairman said he was happy that India would be the next chairman of the non-aligned movement. "This means the movement's role will be more important and it would not only have Indian weight behind it, but that of the whole movement."

Asked whether he was happy with the role of the non-aligned movement in regard to Palestinian question, Mr. Arafat replied, "I cannot forget that the only delegation, which arrived to see me while I was under siege was a non-aligned delegation."

"INDIAN SUPPORT"

The PLO leader said he was very happy with India's support to the Palestinian cause adding, "We are satisfied by the way our friends in India are supporting us," referring to Mrs. Gandhi, he said. "She is a great leader ... My people appreciate her support."

He disclosed that he had received two letters from Mrs. Gandhi recently, one while he was in siege in Lebanon.

Asked if the Israeli invasion of Lebanon constituted "a severe blow to the PLO", Mr. Arafat replied, "No", adding that though it was tough, "My people have proved they can face a huge force. Maybe, we cannot defeat them right now, but they are facing men who are dedicated."

The PLO leader said he expected another "round" by Israel in Lebanon affirming it was "obvious and clear."

Asked if he thought that Arab countries had not done anything concrete during the Israeli action in Lebanon, Mr. Arafat said with a wave of hand "I am pragmatic, I do not deal with sand castles ... I was not facing Israel, I was facing American administration, American power, American force and American conspiracy. It is enough for you to remember how many times this super power used veto (in the Security Council) ... Now I know the meaning of American pressure."

CSO: 4600/1256

REPORT DETAILS TRADE PROTOCOL WITH POLAND

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Oct 82 p 5

[Text] The annual trade protocol signed between India and Poland envisages a 26 percent increase in the trade turnover in 1982 over that in 1981.

An Indian delegation led by Mr S.K. Sarkar, joint secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, concluded the annual trade protocol with Poland on Wednesday. It envisages a trade turnover of Rs 347.6 crores against Rs 275 crores.

In the Indo-Polish trade protocol for 1983, provision has been made for export of Indian goods worth Rs 168.5 crores against Rs 130 crores in 1982, showing an increase of 29.6 percent.

Major exports from India are agriculture products and plantation items (Rs 119.7 crores), textiles (Rs 25.3 crores), engineering goods (Rs 119.7 crores), textiles (Rs 25.3 crores), engineering goods (Rs 11.3 crores) and leather, chemical and allied products (Rs 8.4 crores).

Exports from Poland were envisaged at Rs 179.1 crores against Rs 145 crores in 1982. The exports consist of nonferrous metals and steel products (Rs 36 crores), engineering goods (Rs 76.9 crores) and chemical and allied products (Rs nine crores).

The new items of Polish exports are coking coal (Rs 32 crores) and newsprint (Rs two crores). The new items of Indian exports are dyes and intermediates for textile industry and surgical and medical instruments.

Agriculture and plantation products will constitute almost 80 percent of Poland's imports from India under the protocol.

India's exports to Poland were estimated at Rs 61 crores by September this year and imports during the same period were at Rs 68 crores.

The trade turnover by the end of 1982 has been estimated at Rs 80 crores of Indian exports and Rs 90 crores of Polish exports.

The Indian delegation included officials of the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, External Affairs and representatives of public sector undertakings like STC, PEC, HMT and EEPC, stationed in Europe. India's trade with Poland is conducted within the framework of long-term trade and payment agreement which provide for settlement of all commercial and non-commercial transactions in non-convertible Indian rupees.

WORLD BANK, IFAD TO AID NARMADA PROJECTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Nov 82 p 18

[Text] New Delhi, November 1: The World Bank has agreed to give credit assistance of \$140 million for six projects connected with the development of the Narmada valley in Madhya Pradesh during 1981-1986.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will co-finance the projects to the extent of \$25 million.

Two of the projects (Kolar and Man) are major ones, while the other four (Matuari, Derla Dewada, Chandora and Bundala) are medium projects.

U.S. aid has evinced interest in extending credit assistance to minor schemes in the Narmada valley. According to indications available with the Madhya Pradesh government, U.S. aid is considering to extend credit assistance of \$50 million for 40 minor schemes.

Planning Agency

In addition, two major projects--the Bargi canal and the Narmadasagar complex--are also likely to get World Bank assistance. Identification reports on these projects have been sent to the World Bank. On the advice of the World Bank, the Madhya Pradesh government constituted a Narmada basin planning agency to prepare an integrated plan and feasibility reports of individual projects.

The World Bank will reimburse the expenditure incurred on preparation of feasibility reports.

According to expert estimates, the total cost of major, medium and minor projects in the Narmada valley would be Rs 4,200 crores at 1978-79 prices.

On completion of the development projects, an area of 27.55 lakh acres would have irrigation and an installed capacity of 2,600 MW of hydropower generation would be created. During the six plan, a provision of Rs 425 crores has been made for the Narmada valley projects.

World Bank teams have estimated that the Madhya Pradesh economy would benefit from the Narmada development to the extent of Rs 1,600 crores to Rs 2,000 crores per year. The total number of jobs created would be more than 7,50,000. A backward tract would be converted into one of the most flourishing areas in the country.

CSO: 4600/1248

SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN INDIAN TRADE FAIR

USSR Chief Trade Representative

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 30 (UPI): The Soviet Union is optimistic about doubling the Indo-Soviet trade by 1986 as set out in the joint communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's visit to USSR in September last.

Mr. V. P. Secin, chief trade representative of USSR in India, said "on our part there is absolutely no doubt about it. The programme would be fulfilled," he added.

Mr. Secin was speaking at a press conference here yesterday at the Soviet pavilion in the India International Trade Fair opening on November 1.

He said that India occupied prime place among the trade partners of the Soviet Union. Indo-Soviet trade turnover was even larger than that

of the United States. The bilateral trade last year amounted to Rs. 3,000 crores.

Mr. Vladimir A. Kossarimov, director of the USSR pavilion, said that the exposition comprised of 1,500 exhibits representing trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

They also depicted export capabilities of the Soviet economy, and achievements of Soviet science, technology and culture.

About 85 per cent of the exhibits at the pavilion were new, compared to the previous trade fair.

He said that 22 associations of the Soviet ministry of foreign trade and USSR state committee for foreign economic relations were participating in the fair.

Range of Soviet Products

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Oct 82 p 10

[Text]

A glittering array of consumer items, from cut glass to textiles, and a wide range of industrial products, from tractors to machine tools and airplanes are what the Soviet pavilion at the forthcoming India International Trade Fair will offer to the lay sight-seer and the commercial shopper.

As artistes and other workers at the pavilion, one of the largest at the fair, are working to give it the finishing touches, authorities anticipate that the wide range of products exhibited will give a greater fillip to commercial and trade links between the Soviet Union and India.

The equipments that we are

showing at the Fair will be of great interest to Indian firms," said the Director of the Pavilion Vladimir Kossarimov at a press conference on Friday.

More than 29 organisations of the USSR, including those associated with the State Committee for Economic relations with Foreign Countries will exhibit over 35,000 items at the exhibition. The main thrust of these exhibits, Mr Kossarimov said, would be to depict the Soviet Union's achievements in science, technology and culture and the export abilities of its economy.

Export oriented organisations of the Soviet Union will be showing

samples of presses, computers, steel pipes and power tools which are being exported to several countries, including India, Mr Kossarimov said.

A visual highlight of the exhibition is a huge pictorial depiction of Mrs Gandhi's latest visit to the Soviet Union, and various aspects of this visit shown in giant sized photographs greet the visitor at the entrance to the pavilion. Sections of the pavilion are also devoted to the increasing areas of Indo-Soviet cooperation, and among several exhibits are models of the Bhilai and Bokaro Steel plants built with Soviet cooperation.

TWO EXPORT CONTACTS SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 82 p 5

[Text]

Indian firms will supply to the Soviet Union wire ropes, handloom and hand-made garments worth Rs 6.3 crore under two contracts signed in New Delhi on Monday, reports PTI.

The contracts were signed at the USSR pavilion at the India International Trade fair by representatives of two Soviet trade organisations and Indian firms.

One of the contracts worth 3.8 crores, for the supply of wire ropes was signed with the Indian firm Usha Martin Black Ltd. Mr Zaemsky and Mr Lazarev signed on behalf of the Soviet trade organisation 'Promgizimport'.

The second contract valued at Rs 2.7 crores for the supply of handloom and hand made garments were signed by the representatives of the firms traditional suppliers of handloom garments

to the USSR and Mr V T Lomov and Mr B G Krylov on behalf of 'Novosport'.

The Soviet Union purchases in India a wide range of engineering goods. India's exports of engineering goods during 1980-81 had crossed Rs 37 crore mark.

CSIR has also been buying Indian handicrafts, carpets and handlooms for more than 20 years.

During negotiations the contract for supply of wire ropes was enhanced from Rs 3.8 crore to Rs 4 crores taking the total value of the contracts signed today to Rs 6.7 crore.

About 4,100 tonnes of wire ropes would be supplied during the coming year under the contract.

Supply of handloom and hand-made garments would start in January.

CSO: 4600/1249

ECONOMIC TIES WITH AFGHANISTAN REPORTED GROWING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Nov 82 p 9

[Text] Kabul: Indo-Afghan economic ties have grown substantially this year. This development is associated not only with the decision in early 1982 to reactivate the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission that was in existence during the time of Daoud, but also manifested in an increase in the number of Indian experts working in Afghanistan.

In early 1978, the number of these experts was around a hundred but then it fell below 20 last year. Now it has again been gone up to 29.

The Indian side has the capacity to increase this number to 50 but due to the problems in providing additional accommodation the Afghan side is facing this is not possible.

The first meeting of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission after its reactivation took place in Kabul last May. This meeting outlines areas where enhanced cooperation could be brought about.

At present there is a 150-bed children's hospital in Kabul that is entirely manned by about 16 Indian doctors and para-medical staff. It has been decided to add gynaecological and paediatric wards to it. An Orthopaedic Centre will also be set up in Kabul with Indian assistance.

One major showpiece of Indo-Afghan cooperation is an industrial estate in Pulecharkhi outside Kabul, which is supervised by a mechanical and a civil engineer from India. Resembling the Okhla Industrial Estate in the capital it has 42 Afghan units operating with Indian help and producing textiles shoes, confectionaries, plastic goods, cotton yarns, household goods, soap and detergent.

Several Indian experts are working in Kabul in different departments of finance, agriculture, rural development, irrigation and power, education (teaching English).

About five Indian experts are working in the field of irrigation and hydro-electricity in the Selma hydel power project in northern Herat in western Afghanistan.

Another micro-hydel power project is to come up in Faizalbad with Indian collaboration. However, work on this could not be started for quite some time because of rebel activity in the area. Now that the rebels have been flushed out of the region work on the project is to begin shortly.

Afghanistan is participating in the International Trade Fair in Delhi. About 35 to 40 Afghan athletes will join the Ninth Asiad and an 18-member Afghan cultural troupe is coming to India for the Asiad Cultural Festival.

CSO: 4600/1246

INDIAN UN DELEGATE TELLS STAND ON KAMPUCHEA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Oct 82 p 3

[Text] United Nations, Oct 23 (PTI)--India told the UN General Assembly on Wednesday that any attempt to reverse the process of normalisation within Kampuchea and to restore the status quo ante in that country would be altogether unproductive.

Speaking in the debate on the Kampuchean situation, Indian delegate K. Ramalingam, MP, said it was inconceivable that the people of Kampuchea would allow their erstwhile persecutors to return in any guise to unleash a reign of terror upon them once again.

Mr Ramalingam said although there was a nominal change in the so-called Government of Democratic Kampuchea since the formation of a coalition, the driving force behind it continued to be the remnants of the "despicable Pol Pot regime."

"This fact is evident even from the text of the agreement on forming the coalition. It is an irony that while the legitimate Government of Kampuchea has gained esteem and affection from the people within Kampuchea, a delegation without a capital or a country should have gained support to remain in this Chamber," Mr Ramalingam said.

The Indian delegate announced that his country would abstain on the resolution before the Assembly as it had done in the last two years on similar resolutions.

The 45-nation draft urges the Assembly to deplore that foreign armed intervention and occupation continue in Kampuchea and reaffirm its decision of last year to reconvene 'at an appropriate time' the international conference on Kampuchea. The conference had originally met at the UN headquarters in July last year.

Mr Ramalingam told the Assembly that India would like to recommend that the countries in the region should strive for a comprehensive political solution, the importance of which was reaffirmed by the nonaligned movement since the conference of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of nonaligned countries in New Delhi in February last year.

A beginning had been made in this respect, he noted, jointly by the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam when they announced the withdrawal as a first step, of part of the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea, as a gesture of their goodwill.

The Indian representative said the adoption of a resolution that satisfied only one side would obstruct rather than encourage constructive contacts between the two sides.

Mr Ramalingam took the occasion to reiterate India's opposition to the presence of foreign troops or foreign bases in any country. "We are convinced that a peaceful political solution must be based on the principles of the inadmissibility of the use of force and noninterference in the internal affairs of sovereign States."

CSO: 4600/1234

UN DELEGATE TELLS INDIA'S STAND ON EAST TIMOR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Oct 82 p 12

[Text]

U.N. H.Q., Oct. 28.—India has criticized attempts at the U.N. to interfere in the internal affairs of Indonesia and to reverse the facts of history concerning East Timor, reports PTI.

Speaking at a meeting of the decolonization committee, the Indian delegate, Mr Kamal Nath, urged that East Timor be removed from the agenda of the General Assembly.

"For this committee to keep on its agenda and to discuss the question of East Timor is an unfortunate attempt to negate reality and interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign member-State," Mr Kamal Nath said.

India believed, he said, that the exercise of self-determination in East Timor was completed in 1978 when the people of that territory expressed their collective feeling that their destiny was closely intertwined with that of Indonesia and, specifically, their wish to live as an integral part of that sovereign State. Historical facts could not be glossed over and attempts to reverse the facts of history were unacceptable.

Mr Kamal Nath said that the Government of Indonesia had been making admirable efforts to rectify the injustice and imbalance

which were a legacy of East Timor's colonial past.

He reiterated India's position on the question of Western Sahara and its support to the Organization of African Unity in its efforts to resolve the issue.

India had consistently taken the view that the U.N. had the responsibility for the decolonization of Western Sahara and that the people of that territory should be enabled to exercise their right to self-determination as speedily as possible.

It was a matter of concern to India that the OAU should find itself divided at a juncture in contemporary history. "We hope the OAU will be able to stand together and show us the way on this and other pressing issues which concern Africa and the world," the Indian delegate said.

Mr Kamal Nath told the committee that important challenges remained to be confronted, particularly in Namibia. The will of the international community must not, at this stage, be paralysed into inaction and the struggle to rid the world of the last and dangerously volatile vestiges of colonialism must be waged with renewed vigour.

CSO: 4600/1236

UN ENVOY DISCUSSES ISRAEL, KAMPUCHEA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 82 p 3

[Text] United Nations Oct 26 (UNI)--India has warned of an ever bigger tragedy than the recent Beirut massacre unless the Palestinians have a state of their own and Israel withdraws from all occupied areas.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly yesterday before Iran moved to expel Israel, Ambassador Natrajan Krishnan touched on Arab countries' reservations on Israel's credentials being accepted.

Mr Krishnan said the letter of reservations mirrored the 'indignation and outrage' felt by the overwhelming majority of the memberstates over Israel's continued defiance of UN resolutions.

India did not sign the letter which bore the signatures of 43 member countries of the Arab and Islamic group.

Mr Krishnan deplored the brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians. He also spoke of Palestinians' right to self-determination and role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr Krishnan, who spoke before the Assembly voted to endorse a Sihanouk-led coalition as Kampuchea's sole representative, said it was nothing but the 'universally condemned' Pol Pot.

The Indian envoy noted that India recognised the People's Republic of Kampuchea headed by Mr Heng Samrin as the legal and legitimate government of that country.

He said his country would have liked the Samrin government to join the world body, but the least the UN could do was to disapprove the credentials of the 'so-called Democratic Kampuchea.'

Afterwards, a move to reject the credentials of the delegation of the Kampuchean coalition fell through as only 29 favoured it, while 90 opposed it. There were 26 abstentions.

CSO: 4600/1224

UN DELEGATE ADDRESSES ECONOMIC COMMITTEE 25 OCT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 82 p 3

[Text] United Nations, Oct 26 (PTI)--India has told the United Nations that the 'utter disarray' in the international monetary system was threatening to overwhelm a large number of developing countries some of whom were until recently regarded as solvent, sound and recently affluent.

Speaking in the economic committee yesterday the Indian delegate Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya regretted that it had not yet been possible to launch the global negotiations which alone could provide coherent and integrated treatment of the major international economic problems and lead to the desired restructuring and to a new international economic order.

He said the developing countries were willing to proceed expeditiously towards the launching of global negotiations and it was India's hope that during the current session of the UN General Assembly those few industrial nations which might still have some reservations would make a "concrete response" to the proposals made by the Group of 77.

Prof. Chattopadhyaya recalled the "unique" consensus obtained in the international development strategy for efforts to increase the responsiveness of the international monetary system to the needs and interests of the developing countries and noted that there had been a determined assault to reverse that consensus. He urged the committee to ensure that the benevolent trends in the evolution of the international monetary system achieved in the last two decades were preserved and reinforced.

The former Union Commerce Minister called for a significant expansion of IMF quotas and for a "little wider opening" of the soft wing of the World Bank in order to preserve the hope in the developing countries in their grim struggle against underdevelopment.

Prof. Chattopadhyaya said it was imperative to capture and strengthen the spirit and practice of multilateralism. The international development strategy had recognized that the difficulties the world economy was facing were not transitory but the consequences of maladjustments accumulated over a number of years. The only solution was a fundamental restructuring of international economic relations as called for by the strategy.

He called for the resources of the IMF to be at least doubled if the few success stories in the developing world were not to revert into tragedies. He also called for projects that would start producing enough food to eliminate hunger from the planet.

Further, the international community, particularly the financing institutions, should make more resources available for the exploration and development of energy resources in the developing countries. His Government had consistently supported the proposal for the establishment of an energy affiliate of the World Bank with a rational decision-making structure.

CSO: 4600/1224

'PTI' REPORTS ON CONCERN OVER POLICE TORTURE IN INDIA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.—Amnesty International has expressed concern over the reported cases of prisoners dying as a result of torture in police custody in India during 1981, reports PTI.

The London-based organization had, during the year, sent communications to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister over detentions under the National Security Act and also called for the withdrawal of the Essential Services Maintenance Act in view of its "potential misuse". It said in its annual report.

It viewed with concern the use of preventive detention against critics of the Government, reports of police brutality, torture and deaths in custody, and "continued killings" in various Indian States of political activists in "encounters" with the police.

Taking figures given in Parliament by the Home Minister, the Amnesty report said that it had appealed to the Prime Minister in a letter on December 31 to review the cases of 400 people detained under the National Security Act,

the majority of whom were held "solely for holding dissenting views or expressing political opinions" and called for their release.

Reports of cases of torture resulting in death in police custody continued to reach Amnesty. They were mostly criminal suspects, but alleged Naxalites were also reportedly tortured, Amnesty said.

These reports were compiled from the Indian Press and Amnesty believed that not all cases were publicly reported. Amnesty also sent communications to the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh about deaths in police custody or alleged encounters.

It said in regard to Naxalite killings, the Centre has denied responsibility, claiming that law and order was a matter for the State authorities. In rare cases, where the Centre has prompted States to establish judicial inquiries into killings by police, it has "failed" to take action when inquiries were subsequently curtailed by State Governments, the report added.

CSO: 4600/1223

STATES GIVE 'GRIM' PICTURE OF DROUGHT EFFECTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 26 Oct 82 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 25--India's food economy after two relatively good years is likely to receive a jolt from this year's failure of the monsoon over large parts of the country, reports PTI.

Reports from State capitals, especially from Bihar, West Bengal, and Orissa paint a grim picture of drought nearly as severe as 1979, when 11 States had been affected reducing the foodgrains production to less than 110 million tons.

About 90 districts in seven States out of 19 have so far been officially declared drought-affected. While the Agriculture Ministry does not make any assessment of loss in kharif foodgrain, estimates place a shortfall of between six and eight million tons in the kharif target of 84 million tons.

Official claim puts the total foodgrain production in 1981-82 at a record 132 million tons and procurement at a record 14 million tons. The country is to import 2.5 million tons of wheat from America by March.

While there has been no starvation death so far in the affected States, which include Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, reports from the State capitals speak of the respective Governments taking several relief measures and they had also approached the Centre for assistance as a result of which the latter has already decided to marginally increase their monthly allocation of foodgrain.

Reports of some of the study teams that visited these States to make an assessment of the extent of the drought are still awaited.

With the complete failure of the southeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu, a good north-east monsoon could improve the situation in this drought-hit State. The north-east monsoon began with a bang but proved deceptive despite the unusual cyclone which affected Andhra Pradesh.

Although some parts of the State had rains bringing immediate relief, the main worry was that the irrigation reservoirs in the State except in Kanyakumari district were practically empty.

A preliminary estimate showed that one-third of the usual 450,000 acres of the short-term kurivai crop had been lost due to inadequate irrigation water. The long-term samba crop would now depend on the north-east monsoon in the next two months. The north-east had been deficient by more than 32%.

With all districts except Kanyakumari facing drought conditions with North Arcot, rice-bowl Thanjavur, Dharamapuri, Tirunelveli Ramanathapuram being the worst, the State Government has requested the Centre to make available 80,000 tonnes of rice to tide over this difficult situation.

However, the thrust of the drought relief measures would be towards providing drinking water to the worst affected areas on a priority basis. The Tamil Nadu water and sewerage board has commissioned about 100 deep bore well rigs in the worst affected areas.

The national rural employment scheme has been intensified providing employment to the drought affected farm labour under the food for work programme. With a sound transport infrastructure connecting the remotest areas of the State, there has been no starvation deaths so far.

The spectre of famine is hovering over the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh following failure of kharif crop and non-sowing of rabi crops this year.

Meanwhile, the Orissa Chief Minister Mr J.B. Patnaik, today called on the Prime Minister and apprised her of the serious drought in the State.

He asked her for liberal assistance to meet the situation.

The Prime Minister is understood to have assured him of necessary help.

Except for 20% of irrigated land, all the 13 districts in Orissa have been affected. According to State officials, the crop loss is estimated to be over 70%.

CSO: 4600/1221

ANALYST DISCUSSES CPI ATTITUDE TOWARD GANDHI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Oct 82 p 8

[Commentary by Inder Malhotra: "CPI's Agonizing Dilemma: Attitude Towards Mrs Gandhi"]

[Text]

SHREWD observers of the political scene could not have failed to notice that the CPI along with the CPM, has discreetly stayed away from the alliance that five other opposition parties have forged in Andhra with Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, the "matinee idol", who has made an impressive debut in the state's troubled politics. This is an extremely revealing straw in the wind. For it is the most important indication so far of a subtle softening of the communist, especially the CPI's, attitude towards Mrs. Gandhi since her visit to Moscow during which she made no bones about decrying the Indian left for ganging up with the rightists against her.

The CPM is best left out of this discussion. Its traditions are different from those of the CPI. So are its compulsions. It is essentially a regional party, with its influence confined to West Bengal and Kerala where it finds it expedient to confront, rather than cooperate with, Mrs. Gandhi's government at the Centre. It may yet change its stance in Andhra, too. But the CPI is a different kettle of fish. Not only did this party give unstinted support to Mrs. Gandhi from 1969 to early 1977 but it has always looked upon itself as the only all-India party of the left. It has therefore tried to define its attitude towards Mrs. Gandhi from a wider perspective.

Moreover, the CPI has been and is much closer to Moscow than the CPM can ever be even though the Marxists, shedding their earlier pro-Chinese and anti-Soviet posture, have of late embarked on the road to rapprochement with Russia. Altogether, therefore it is the CPI's role that had acquired much the greater im-

portance in the eyes of both Mrs. Gandhi and others. This should explain the intensity of both internal and external pressures on the CPI.

Policy Reversal

In the wake of the electoral upheaval in March 1977, the CPI had little difficulty in jettisoning its previous policy of trying to ride to power by hanging on to Mrs. Gandhi's sari-tails, party leaders ruefully admitting that they had been foolish in lending support to the emergency, initially at least. The policy reversal was virtually painless. It was in keeping with the prevailing public mood. Mrs. Gandhi was safely out of power. And Moscow was busy with its own somersaults which involved wooing the Janata leaders it had denounced as "reactionaries" right until the March poll and pretending that Mrs. Gandhi, like Mr. Khrushchev, had become a non-person.

After Mrs. Gandhi's return to power in January 1980, the Soviet leadership was quicker to readjust to new realities than the CPI. Indeed, during the last two-and-a-half years there has hardly been a moment when the party has been free from turmoil over the question of supporting or opposing Mrs. Gandhi. The hope of the CPI leadership that the votaries of lending full support to her had left the party along with Mr. S. A. Dange was belied quickly. There has been much Dangeism within the CPI without Mr. Dange — a phenomenon some attribute to Mrs. Gandhi's "fifth column."

Faced with this situation, the CPI has so far tried, unsurprisingly but with not too much success,

to take refuge in ambiguity and ambivalence. It has pretended to follow a two-track policy, purporting to support Mrs. Gandhi's "progressive policies." Especially in the international arena, while opposing the "retrograde ones", particularly in the economic field; to fight Mrs. Gandhi's "authoritarianism" as well as "right reaction, spearheaded by the BJP"; and to build a "left and democratic" alternative to both the Congress (I) and the party led by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

But, quite apart from the fact that the pursuit of so many mutually contradictory objectives is bound to turn into a quixotic exercise, deeds speak louder than words. And where deeds are concerned, Mr. C. Rajeswara Rao, who is both the party general secretary and a hardline opponent of the Prime Minister, has managed to give the CPI's vaguely defined policies a clear anti-Mrs. Gandhi tilt.

Russia's Uneasiness

The CPI's decision to join hands with the Lok Dal and the BJP to protest against the Haryana governor's dubious decision to install the Bhajan Lal ministry in the state was a source of annoyance to Mrs. Gandhi. But she was infuriated much more when, in a bid that was reminiscent of 1967, the CPI leader, Prof. Hiren Mukherjee, agreed to become the presidential candidate on behalf of all opposition parties.

In the event the poor professor got the worst of both worlds. His candidature could not be sustained because his name did not figure on the voters' list. And he was immediately deprived of the post of honorary adviser to the

Loi Sabha's bureau of parliamentary studies and training which carried much prestige and some perquisites. But that is a different story.

The pertinent point, however, is that it was soon after the presidential poll that Mrs. Gandhi publicly spoke out in Parliament about the perfidy of the Indian leftists and the indifference to it of their "mentors". For his part, Mr. Rajeswara Rao found it necessary to take the extraordinary step of declaring that the CPI's policies were "framed in India, not in Moscow."

Even before Mrs. Gandhi's arrival in the Soviet capital, however, there were clear signs of Russia's uneasiness over the deterioration in the relationship between her and those deemed to be its special friends in India. At the same time, Mr. Rajeswara Rao's critics within the CPI started stepping up their attacks on him.

It was from Moscow that Mr. Yogendra Sharma, a prominent CPI leader, circulated to his party colleagues a note which was nothing short of an indictment of Mr. Rajeswara Rao. It alleged, among other things, that the CPI general secretary had "misrepresented" to his party colleagues his own earlier conversations with the Soviet leaders.

Also it was no mere coincidence that Mr. N. K. Krishnan, who is next only to Mr. Rajeswara Rao in the CPI hierarchy, and Mr. Mohit Sen, whom the party general secretary had often chided for being "too pro-Mrs. Gandhi", went to Moscow just ahead of the Prime Minister.

As soon as they returned home

there was a meeting of the CPI's central executive committee at which Mr. Rajeswara Rao came under heavy fire. A large number of committee members took it upon them to task for issuing a statement three days prior to Mrs. Gandhi's departure for the Soviet Union sharply criticising some of her policies. They bluntly told him that he had no authority to issue a statement of this kind off his own bat, and that in future, he must consult the executive before committing the party to any particular stance.

What must have come as a surprise to Mr. Rajeswara Rao was that even the mild-mannered Mr. Krishnan joined his critics. Normally Mr. Krishnan remains silent at the executive's meetings even when he feels aggrieved by any of Mr. Rajeswara Rao's actions and prefers to argue with him in private. The conciliatory signal that the CPI has sent to Mrs. Gandhi since have obviously been inspired by this discussion.

The initial gestures were relatively trivial but unmistakable. For instance, the CPI refrained from joining the opposition's walk-out on one or two sensitive issues. A day after the peace march, sponsored jointly by the CPI and the CPM, all CPI MPs present in the two houses were invited to Mrs. Gandhi's Parliament House office for an impromptu meeting with her. She complimented them on their "successful march" and they said they wished she had addressed the marchers. Her reply: "None of you asked me to do so".

Poll Alliance Move

Against this backdrop the party's

stand on an alliance in Andhra with Mr. N. T. Ramarao, of which the BJP is also a part, becomes all the more significant, and for several reasons. For one thing, thanks largely to NTR, who is looked upon as Andhra's MGR, the opposition is hopeful of wresting power from the Congress (I) which has never before lost power in this state. For another, Andhra is Mr. Rajeswara Rao's state and he had no qualms in the past about joining hands with the BJP in municipal elections.

However, it would be wrong to believe that the issue has already been clinched in favour of the "broad-support-to-Mrs. Gandhi" line. Far from it. Mr. Rajeswara Rao and his supporters — such as Mr. N. Rajasekhara Reddy who told his colleagues only the other day not to treat the BJP as "politically untouchable" — are fighting back hard. A veteran of intra-party warfare, Mr. Rajeswara Rao is also displaying considerable tactical virtuosity. In announcing to the press the party executive's latest decisions he managed neatly to underplay the resolution hailing Mrs. Gandhi's sojourn in the Soviet Union. He is also asking awkward questions. Support to Mrs. Gandhi's progressive foreign policies, he says, is all right. But, he asks, must the CPI commit suicide a second time by backing also her "anti-people" actions and economic policies calculated to "make India a happy hunting ground for multinationals?"

In other words, the CPI's dilemma about Mrs. Gandhi remains as acute as it has been in recent months except that the agonised debate on it within the party ranks has become even fiercer than before.

FRIENDS OF SOVIET UNION PUBLIC MEETING REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 82 p 5

[Text] Speakers at a public meeting on Monday described the Indo-Soviet friendship as 'historical' which would go a long way in establishing world peace.

The public meeting was organised in the Capital by the friends of Soviet Union to [word illegible] a visiting Soviet delegation led by Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations, Deputy Chairman G. Iyanev.

Welcoming the delegations, Friends of Soviet Union chairman Nural Hassan said history was a witness to the growing relationship between the two countries.

He said the FSU was set up with the blessings of the late Jawahar Lal Nehru over 40 years ago when the peoples of the Soviet Union were fighting against fascism. He said the USSR always stood by India in her hour of need.

The USSR rendered 'brotherly' help to India whenever it was attacked. The heavy and small industries set up during the post-independence period were the examples of the love between the two countries.

Prof. Hassan assured the delegation that India would never shirk from responding to the call of a 'loving country.'

Mr G. Iyanev, speaking on the occasion, lauded the role played by the Friends of Soviet Union in further strengthening the ties between the two countries. He lashed out at the 'destabilising forces' which wanted to create hatred among mankind and infuse uncertainty among the peoples of peace loving countries.

Mr Iyanev, who was accorded a rousing welcome at Rangshala, referred to President Brezhnev's speech at the 26th Congress of the CPSU which made it known to all about the Soviet Union's deep faith in peaceful coexistence.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi also showed her faith in peace and friendly relationship between the peoples of the world, he added.

FSU member K.R. Ganesh described the Indo-Soviet friendship as "age-old" and which had been tested again and again.

AICC-I joint secretary Mehmooda Begum said the late Pandit Motilal Nehru had great love and faith for the people of the USSR and ever since the two countries had established cordial relations.

INDIA

CPI-M GENERAL SECRETARY MEETS WITH PRESS 27 OCT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] Cochin, Oct 27 (UNI)--CPI-M general secretary E.M.S. Namboodiripad today clarified that his party was not interested in forming a "grand alliance" of all opposition parties as a national alternative to the Congress-I it's aim on the other hand is to create a national alternative of left and democratic forces, he said.

Addressing a news conference here Mr Namboodiripad said the CPI(M), the CPI, the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the Forward Bloc and the Democratic Socialist Party would launch a joint campaign shortly to focus the attention of the Government and the people on the impending threat of famine due to drought and floods and stress the need to change the Government's socioeconomic policies to meet the same.

The impact of the drought and floods would be felt through shortage of food-grains even in States not directly affected by them, he pointed out.

The CPM leader urged the Center to take over wholesale trade in essential commodities and strengthen the public distribution system to avert starvation deaths.

Mr Namboodiripad said the central committee of the party would meet in Trivandrum in the first week of December to discuss, among other things, the party's stand in the elections to the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Assemblies.

Asked about the prospects of the Telugu Desam of Mr N.T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh, he said that the party might do well considering the inherent weakness of the Congress-I. It would be good if the party helped to defeat the Congress-I.

About Assam, he said, the Union Government was interested only in installing a Congress-I Government and not in solving the problem in the State. His party wanted elections to be held there immediately after ensuring that the agitators and the bureaucrats which helped them, allowed the minorities to participate in the elections, he said.

CSO: 4600/1229

MINISTER STRESSES SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENSE

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Oct 82 p 7

[Text] Mettur Dam, Oct 29--The Union Defence Minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, today said self-reliance in defence was the first and foremost necessity of all nations, particularly India by virtue of her history, geographical location and geopolitical responsibilities. He was laying the foundation stone for a semi-conductor silicon project being started by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation Limited at Mettur Dam in Salem district.

The Rs 3 crore project, being developed purely on indigenous research effort will turn out, among other items, silicon wafers which are used in the manufacture of transistors, high voltage rectifiers and integrated circuits.

They find an application in a whole series of devices, ranging from the simplest transistor radio to single large IC chips which carry more than 200,000 transistors or memories, and for computers and defence applications.

Enormous Range: Mr Venkataraman said the silicon wafer had an enormous range of users, from the entertainment industry to defence, including sophisticated weapons of war. It was necessary for India to develop this industry and become "the developed among the developing nations of the world."

He said it was all the more necessary for India to become self-reliant as dependence on other nations had proved unsafe. A neutral country could afford to ignore what was happening in the rest of the world. But India, which followed a policy of active nonalignment could not afford to fall behind. It would have to support what was right and this could not be done this unless India had the capacity and was self-reliant.

It was essential, he said, to keep pace with the latest developments in tanks, missiles, submarines, torpedoes and other defence requirements. In the field of technology, there was plenty of talent in the country, "but we are afraid to use it because we are afraid of failure."

Fear of Failure: The Minister said the idea of developing indigenous technology in defence had already been mooted. But there was a fear of failure. "If no body wants to take the risk then when can we progress? We are clever, we want the other man to do the experiment and use the benefit."

If there was lack of interaction between research and industry, the reason could be traced to industry's reluctance to take risks.

Commending the semiconductor project as a lesson to other industries, the Minister said the scientists, given the right cooperation would be able to solve the problems faced by industry in its search for new processes.

Tax Relief: Delivering the Chairman's address, Mr S. Narayanaswamy sought some tax relief from the Government. "We do not have an industrial tradition and we need a bit of spoonfeeding," he pleaded.

He was critical of the research and development houses and said they lived in their ivory castles working on parallel lines with industry. They were shy to communicate with industry, he said.

The Managing Director of Mettur Chemicals, Mr R.V. Ramani, welcoming the gathering, said the estimated cost of the project was below Rs 3 crores. The output envisaged should meet the country's entire requirements for the next few years. The plant was scheduled to go on stream in approximately six months time.

No Peaks. Prof. S. Ramasesha, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, said that after Independence there had been no peaks in the scientific sphere though the pre-Independence era produced great scientists like Sir C. V. Raman. He said universities had been politicised. It was his opinion that universities were the places of excellence but they were neglected today.

The General Manager (Works), Mettur Chemicals, Mr D. Seshasayee, proposed a vote of thanks.

CSO: 4600/1237

ARTICLE REVIEWS PROJECT TO DEVELOP BATTLE TANK

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Oct 82 p 8

[Article by G. Balachandran: "The Main Battle Tank Is Not a Failure"]

[Text] Many critics contend that Indian defence research has failed on the MBT project—that, in any case, the effort has taken far too long, cost too much and downgraded the qualitative requirement. Our Development Correspondent analyses the progress of the project and comes to a different conclusion.

FEW, if any, defence research projects have evoked so much interest in the public as the "Chetak" project for the design and development of the Main Battle Tank (MBT) for the Indian Army during the late 80s and 90s. While the Ministry of Defence has maintained its usual "It is not in the nation's interest to divulge at this stage..." attitude, two contradictory aspects stand out.

(1) The predominantly prevalent attitude in the public today seems to be that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has failed in its task of designing the MBT.

(2) On the other hand a careful analysis of the MBT project, as well as the DRDO budget, reveals that the project is in fact in far better shape than its critics make out.

To recapitulate briefly, the critics of the DRDO base their case on the following alleged facts.

(i) The MBT project was started in 1970 and has gone on for 12 years.

(ii) The project cost has been more than Rs. 60 crores — as a matter of fact, estimates of the MBT project by its critics have ranged from Rs. 60 crores to Rs. 800 crores, a figure which is in excess of the total DRDO budget for the whole period 1970-71 to 1981-82.

(iii) The Army has downgraded its requirements by respecifying a requirement

of 800 hp engine instead of a 1500 hp engine for a 45 tonne tank, altering the gun size, etc.

(iv) The Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) has not gone about doing the R & D work in a systematic manner.

Time span

What are the facts?

The ground for claiming that the MBT project has been going on for 12 years is the issuance of a GSQR (General Staff Qualitative Requirement) by the Army — GSQR 328 allegedly issued in 1970. However, the fact is that the GSQR incorporating the Army requirements was issued only in late 1972 and that even then the project itself was sanctioned and initiated only during 1974-75.

Thus the MBT project has in fact been on board for only eight years instead of 12 years. As anybody familiar with the R & D in system development (which is what an MBT programme is) would be aware, in such cases the bulk of progress is achieved only during the final stages. It is, therefore, unfair to accuse the DRDO of failure in the MBT programme after only eight years of development while asserting that it has occupied a time span of 12 years.

Moreover it would be unfair to the DRDO to imply that its programme has been slow and tardy, when comparative examples from other parts of the world are

taken into account. There are currently only two known MBTs in the world in the 1,500 hp range, which are operational in the field. They are the American XM4-1 and the West German Leopard II, both of which have their origins in the joint U.S.-German MBT 70 programme, started in 1963.

The joint venture was terminated in 1970 and the two countries went their separate ways. The results of their individual programmes, the XM4-1 and the Leopard II, were finally produced somewhere during 1979-81, after a time lag of 18 years. It seems unrealistic to require that the DRDO's MBT programme should show success after only eight years.

Another fact which must be kept in mind is that the MBT programmes in other countries are, to a large extent, aided by the industrial sector. The XM4-1 engine was developed by AVCO and the Leopard II engine by MTU. The defence research agencies develop the integrated system.

In the case of the DRDO, however, it has not only to take care of the system design, but also to develop the system components themselves, such as the engine, the transmission and so on. Not unnaturally, its time frame for the project would tend to get compromised to some extent.

Cost comparison

What about the cost? One of the strongest criticisms against the DRDO has been that it has not produced an MBT of the 1,500 hp range *ab initio*, even after spending Rs. 60 crores. Why is it strange? Compare the costs of development of MBTs elsewhere. The American XM4-1 programme cost around Rs. 1,000 crores for the development of the prototype. The Leopard II cost a similar amount.

According to congressional testimony, the U.S. Army estimated that it would cost around Rs. 300 crores even to modify an existing 1,500 hp engine for the XM4-1 tank. The British Government spent an estimated Rs. 100 crores over a two-year period just on the project definition for a heavy MBT to replace their Chieftain.

Under these circumstances, it is unreasonable to expect the DRDO to produce (and accuse it of not developing) a heavy MBT for the princely sum of Rs. 60 crores spread over eight years. Rs. 60 crores? This again seems a considerable overestimate of the actual amount spent on the programme. It is not difficult to get an estimate of the MBT expenditure from published sources.

Unsound conclusion

The total DRDO expenditure during 1974-82 is around Rs. 500 crores — Rs. 503.19 crores to be exact. According to Ministry of Defence annual reports, "Self" projects, of which the MBT project is one, account for about 60 per cent of the total DRDO expenditure. Of the self projects, projects connected with "vehicles" account for about 14 per cent of the expenditure and eight per cent of all projects.

Even if one assumes that the MBT project by itself accounts for 40-50 per cent of all the expenditure under the "vehicles" category, it would amount to only about 3 to 4.2 per cent of the total DRDO expenditure. Translated into rupees, it would mean that the MBT project should have incurred an expenditure of not more than Rs. 15-21 crores, a far cry from the alleged figure of Rs. 60 crores.

Therefore, aside from anything else, to fault the DRDO for not providing India with a heavy MBT for an expenditure of less than Rs. 20 crores spread over a period of eight years is an unsound proposition which cannot be sustained by any economic criterion or comparative evaluation.

What about the progress of the MBT-80 programme and reports that the Army HQ has downgraded the GSQR? The reports are that the engine designed by the CVRDE has developed around 480 hp in a naturally aspirated version. For a 12-cylinder engine this is about the limit (35-40 hp per cylinder), a limit imposed by mechanical and thermodynamic considerations.

The second stage is to modify the engine to run in a turbo-charged version. Depending on the compression ratio (a ratio of 2 to 1 for combat vehicles is quite common) the rating of the engine can be increased significantly. It would, therefore, be quite possible and relatively easy for the CVRDE engine to develop 900-950 hp when turbocharged.

Turbocharger

It is here that the CVRDE may experience some technical problems, and indeed probably has done so. It is only natural against the backdrop of the performance of Indian industry, where there is currently not a single turbocharger manufacturer. It is even more so when one recognises that five years after the Vaidya Committee on Turbochargers recommended that a central turbocharger unit be set up urgently, there has been no follow-up on that recommendation.

However, there is no reason to doubt that if sufficient funds and manpower are ensured to the MBT project, the turbo-charged version of the engine will be ready by the end of 1983.

The step after turbocharging is the addition of an after-cool to the engine which could raise its rating by another 300-400 hp, reaching a total figure of about 1300-1400 hp. These are the natural stages in the design and development of a combat vehicle diesel engine and the CVRDE has not made any significant departure from this route.

Why then the confusion? It is quite likely that the critics have confused the final rating of 1500 hp (with after-cool) with the 900-950 hp rating of the turbo-charged-only version of the engine. In any case, it should be remembered that the currently available version of the naturally aspirated engine could be developed to realise its full poten-

of 1800 hp. and in that sense there has been no significant failure or setback in the MBT programme.

Qualitative requirement

Has the Army HQ downgraded its qualitative requirement (QR)? With the full 1500 hp, the MBT-80 would have a mobility of around 30 hp/tonne the maximum figure currently available and planned elsewhere. The 980 hp. would result in a mobility ratio of 20 hp/tonne. On this question of mobility, both enquiries at the DRDO and secondary evidence reveal that there has been no downgrading on the QR between 1972 and 1982. To be more precise, both the CSQRs of 1972 and 1982 seem to have called for an engine of only around 980 hp. for a 48 tonne MBT — giving a mobility of 20 hp/tonne.

It is quite certain that there would have been changes in the CSQR between 1972 and 1982. But it is inconceivable that the Army HQ would have downgraded the qualitative requirement during a period when there have been major advances in both the tank and anti-tank technologies. The gun size is reported to have been respecified to a 120 mm. calibre. That should involve additional work.

It would be appropriate to recall here that the United States, which has also decided to equip the future generation of XM-1 with the 120 mm gun, has an agreement with West Germany to produce this gun in the U.S. under licence. Obviously, India does not have this option, but has to do its own development of the gun.

All these modifications are in the nature of upgrading the qualitative requirement and are quite likely to result in cost escalation and time delay. However, these are the costs of R and D, especially in defence, and have to be recognized as such.

A pointer

The above analysis of the MBT project must be tempered with a word of caution. In spite of the fact that the MBT project is proceeding reasonably smoothly and according to schedule, it is quite likely that an imported powerpack may be used in the indigenously designed MBT. This could be for operational, technical and (what one correspondent characterized in the context of another major project) "superior non-technical" reasons.

Such actions cannot, however, deny credit to the DRDO. If nothing else, the MBT project would have raised the R & D capability of the DRDO significantly and would enable it to progress much faster on the next generation of MBTs. The history of the development of the self-propelled (SP) gun by DRDO is a pointer.

In the early 70s, the DRDO was asked to develop — and succeeded in developing — an SP-105 mm gun. However, it did not go into production. Nevertheless the experience gained in the SP-105 project enabled the DRDO to complete its next project on self-propelled guns, the SP-130, in time and this has gone into production.

There is a lesson to be learnt here before one can judge with finality the success or failure of any R & D project, in defence or any other sector.

BATTLE TANK TO BE READY FOR TRIALS IN DECEMBER '83

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Oct 82 p 9

[Article by L. K. Sharma]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 22.

THE advanced main battle tank being developed by India is expected to be ready for trial by December next year.

Slippages in such major technological projects are common but scientists involved in the development of this tank are confident of overcoming the problems in time which mainly relate to engine development, since work on other sub-systems has shown satisfactory results.

Contrary to some recent press reports, neither the project is being abandoned nor have the performance specifications been scaled down.

The development of a main battle tank by the Defence Research and Development Organisation will be a big step towards self-reliance in a major sensitive area and cause a setback to the import lobby. At more than Rs. 1 crore per piece, tank deals involve huge outgo of foreign exchange and large amounts of commission.

Some of the recent reports on the main battle tank project have been questioned by defence scientists for their veracity. One of them wondered whether the tank was being used to run down indigenous effort and

demoralise scientists and engineers working on the project.

One yardstick to judge the progress of the project is to compare it with similar projects in developed countries. They have taken about 14 years or more to develop a comparable modern tank.

The U.S. and West Germany had embarked on a main battle tank project in 1963. The project had to be cancelled and the two countries later undertook independent development. The two tanks were delivered to the respective armies in 1979 and 1980.

The Indian situation with regard to capabilities, resources and the ready infrastructure is quite different and despite this the Defence Research and Development Organisation is planning to have the first prototype ready for evaluation in less than 10 years.

It has spent on this project till now about Rs. 16 crores and eight years. The advanced countries invest astronomical sums in defence research and development, with 15 to 20 per cent of their massive defence budgets going into R and D. India spends just two per cent of its defence budget on R and D.

The project was sanctioned in 1974 and initially, it was planned to import a suitable engine for the tank while developing other sub-systems at home. When the import option appeared to be closed due to political and other reasons, it was decided to undertake engine development.

Work on the high-powered diesel engine began in 1976 and the first prototype was made available for development testing three years later. It achieved the horse power of 400 while the ultimate target is to increase it to 1500 HP.

However, even with the current level of development, if the engine is coupled with a turbocharger, the horse power developed will be about 1,000, adequate to meet most of the operational requirements. A modern, that engine does not operate without turbocharger and this device is under development.

There have been setbacks in engine development, but one must consider that six years spent on it is not an unduly long period for such a complex task.

In some sensitive technologies related to the development of the tank gun, armour projectiles and sights, the results have been more promising. Also, these developments have cost much less than what was spent by advanced countries on similar projects.

Pending the development of the engine, it is likely that other sub-systems may be tested by using an imported engine.

The scientists are hopeful that the first of the indigenous main battle tanks will start rolling off the assembly line before the end of the current decade.

GANDHI TALKS TO NEWSMEN IN VIJAYAWADA 30 OCT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Oct 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] Vijayawada, Oct 30--Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said here today that her Government was against imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking areas. 'However this should not interfere with the overall interests of the country,' she added.

In an informal chat with newsmen at the Ibrahim Patnam thermal power station of which she inaugurated the stage II, Mrs Gandhi said every now and then, one heard of some groups or elements joining together to divide the people in the name of language and religion.

The Prime Minister warned the nation against foreign forces and certain groups within the country which, she said, were trying to divide the people on considerations of languages, caste and religion.

The Prime Minister said: 'Slogan-mongering and agitations on the basis of language, caste, religion and region were divisive factors which would weaken the country.'

'If we get divided along these lines, there will be no India,' she said and added: 'You need leaders with a national perspective who have vision and foresight to utilise programmes for the benefit of the people.'

Regional Parties Assailed

The Prime Minister reiterated that she was against all regional parties, not only in Andhra Pradesh, but wherever they existed.

Asked how her party happened to have electoral alliance with a regional party like the Dravida Mannetra Kathagam in Tamilnadu, Mrs Gandhi replied, "sometimes, there is a special situation."

To another question regarding the impending elections to the Andhra Pradesh assembly she said it was for the State Chief Minister to say, "I have not come here in connection with the elections," she said and added that her programme had been drawn up to study the drought situation in the State.

Mrs Gandhi said 'good progress' had been made in Andhra Pradesh under the 20-point economic programme.

Asked about her views on the linguistic States, she said, "I do not think we could have avoided the linguistic States because it was part of the freedom movement. People felt that they could protect their interests better if they had linguistic States," she said.

Replying to the charge that Opposition leaders were not being consulted on the present situation in Punjab, Mrs Gandhi said the Union Home Minister and others had been meeting Opposition leaders on the issue.

To a question on the charge of Opposition leaders in Andhra Pradesh that frequent change of Chief Ministers had retarded the progress of the State Mrs Gandhi quipped, 'I do not think so' and added, 'what else do you expect the Opposition parties to say?'

Speaking at largely-attended public meetings in the State, she said that Andhra Pradesh achieved spectacular progress in power generation and today is in a position to help other States.

The imperative need for national unity was the main theme of Mrs Gandhi's speeches at different places. 'Our country is great because of its unity. We believe in unity with diversity, and encourage all religions and languages.'

Mrs Gandhi said the country had slipped back during the Janata rule and it took two years for the present Government to take the country on the right direction the three projects which were inaugurated by her yesterday and today, were the symbols of the technical advancement of the country, she said.

At Madanapally, Mrs Gandhi gave loans amounting to Rs 3.5 crores to 10,425 people from weaker sections for starting dairy and poultry units and small industries. The amount included a subsidy of about Rs 1.7 crores provided by the District Rural Development Agency, Madanapally.

She also distributed pattas for 380 hectares among 11,227 people in the district.

Stressing the need for harmonious relations among the States, she said that no State in the country was fully self-sufficient and had to depend on others.

Mrs Gandhi said even the Communist parties had programmes for ending economic injustice. The Congress policy, she said, was always geared to meet the needs of the people.

Women's Welfare

Mrs Gandhi said the Congress-I was wedded to the welfare and development of women who constituted more than half the country's population. They should be given adequate opportunity to improve their economic conditions and take their rightful place in national life.

Praising the ability of Indian engineers, she said 'I have laid the foundation for many projects where I am happy to find Indian engineers doing excellent work.'

'Apart from our own economic problems, new responsibilities have been entrusted to us by world organisations, reflecting our capability and status in the world community,' she said.

The second stage of the Vijayawada thermal power project comprising two units of 210 mw each is estimated to cost about Rs 260 crore and will cater to the growing demand for power in Andhra Pradesh, estimated to be 2898 mw by 1985-86.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, who presided over the meeting, congratulated the engineers and workers of the project for completing the first stage of the project in record time.

He also announced a bonus of one month's salary for all workers at the thermal power station.

CSO: 4600/1241

GANDHI SPEECH AT RAJAHMUNDY PUBLIC MEETING REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, October 29 (PTI & UNI)--The Prime Minister today expressed concern over communal and caste clashes and slogans raised in favour of regionalism she said these were harmful to the country and weakened the nation.

India's strength, Mrs Gandhi said, lay in its size and capability and no state or region was by itself self-sufficient. Each was dependent on the other and all on the Centre. Unless there was cooperation among the states themselves and between the states and the Centre, the country's progress would come to a standstill, she warned.

"We have to view local problems in the context of national issues and national problems in the context of international issues," she said asking the people to broaden their horizons.

Mrs Gandhi said that although there were some lapses in the implementation of plan schemes, "the whole world knows that our country has made 'remarkable progress.'" Millions of people had been raised above the poverty line, though millions still remained to be uplifted, she added.

Referring to the three-year Janata rule at the Centre, she said that great damage had been done to the country at that time. They had rolled up the plans with the result that various welfare schemes had suffered.

Mrs Gandhi said the real strength and wealth of the country were its people. All efforts were being made to build up the infrastructure to promote the welfare of the people, particularly the poorer sections.

Many projects had been started in the country, whose benefits had yet to be effectively utilised.

Right Policies

"Since we have been following the right policies, our country has made sufficient progress in agriculture, science and technology," she added.

Mrs Gandhi said that the policy of the Congress Party had been not only to encourage the medium and small-scale industries, but also to ensure that the benefits of agriculture and industry reached the poor.

Mrs Gandhi said the present-day problems were "far more complex" not only in our country but also in all other countries, including the socialist countries. Even the most powerful countries were today suffering from "inflation, frustration among the people and lack of direction."

"We in India have the problem of poverty and economic development and also the problems created by other countries. In today's world, no community and no country can think of living in isolation," she pointed out.

Mrs Gandhi told the gathering "Unless we are united and strong, we cannot solve any problem, neither big nor small. We cannot solve the problem of poverty or the problems of backward districts."

/Significantly, Mrs Gandhi did not make any reference to Telugu Desam, the party founded by film star N.T. Rama Rao, who is also on a campaign tour in neighbouring Visakhapatnam district./ [in boldprint]

Addressing a public meeting at Rajahmundry, Mrs Gandhi stressed the necessity of helping small farmers to increase production and encouraging small and cottage industries to strengthen the economic base.

Along with economic plans, the 20-point programme had been launched mainly for the uplift of scheduled tribes and backward classes.

CSO: 4600/1235

PAPER REPORTS GANDHI 31 OCT SPEECH IN MADRAS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] Madras, October 31 (PTI). The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, today appealed to the people to show a spirit of patriotism, pride for the nation and dedication to the cause of increasing production, so that the fruits of production were equitably distributed.

Addressing a large gathering at the Meenarrakkam airport here during her brief halt before emplaning for Delhi, she said "unless we strengthen the base of our country, which rests on the poorest, weakest, small farmers and others we cannot really say that the country is strong."

"This is the time when we must stand united and show our solidarity to the rest of the world," she said.

The Prime Minister arrived here from Tirupati on the conclusion of her two-day visit to Andhra Pradesh.

Mrs Gandhi said all countries were facing "difficult situation and we being under developed and poor, we get the brunt of any international situation. Apart from that we have our own problems of poverty and economic backwardness."

The Prime Minister said there must be a national perspective as the country had its own problems in the fields of development and progress and also the danger surrounding the human race itself. Each state must tackle its problems from the larger point of view of the country.

Earlier, on arrival the Prime Minister was received by the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, his cabinet colleagues, former chief minister, Mr M. Bhaktavatsalam, former Kerala governor, Mrs Joci Vekatachellum, and the TNCC(I) president, Mrs Maragatham Chandrasekhar, and a large gathering of congressmen.

The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vijayabhaskara Reddy, accompanied the Prime Minister from Tirupati to Madras.

/Tirupati (UNI): Mrs Gandhi offered prayers and had a darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala for over two and a half hours this morning./ [in boldface]

Mrs Gandhi who entered the temple at 3.00 a.m. first performed suptabhatam by offering special "navaneetha arathi" to Lord Venkateswara. Later she performed "thomalaseva" (decorating the god with flower garlands) and archana.

New Delhi (PTI): Mrs Gandhi today called upon the people to fight obscurant and divisive forces threatening the unity of the country.

"The need of the hour is to preserve the unity of the nation," the prime minister said inaugurating a procession taken out on the occasion of Maharshi Valmiki's birthday at the historic Red Fort.

The Prime Minister, meanwhile, has extended her warm greetings to all who revered Guru Nanak and hoped that "this will be an occasion for others also to dip into his voice of wisdom."

CSO: 4600/1243

CPI-M LEADER SAYS GANDHI ANTICOMMUNIST BID 'A FLOP'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Nov 82 p 9

[Text] Trivandrum, October 31. The CPM general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, said here today that the "petition" before the Soviet President, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, to keep the two communist parties in this country disunited had failed.

Although Mr Namboodiripad did not mention the Prime Minister as the "petitioner" before Mr Brezhnev, it was clear that the CPM leader took particular delight in telling Mrs Gandhi by implication that her mission to Moscow had not produced the desired result in the CPI.

He added that the two communist parties had already lined up against the authoritarianism of Mrs Gandhi and the Congress(I). They were ready to co-operate with other opposition parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party, on some issues.

In a statement today, Mr Namboodiripad said the Soviet Communist Party was sought to be dragged in by interested parties in the country for making the propaganda that the two communist parties and a section within the CPI did not see eye to eye on the move against Mrs Gandhi.

According to him, the situation in Kerala where the United Democratic Front was ruling was worsening. The fight between the two Congress parties over the nomination of the Anglo-Indian representative in the state legislature had dragged on for more than five months. In the process, the constitutional provision had been ignored. The nominee should have been in the legislature before the first session of the legislature.

Kerala Conflict

The Congress(I) workers had warned the Congress (A) of Mr A.K. Antony that it should not try to agitate against the administration while enjoying its benefits. This conflict was escalating into a fight between pro-merger and anti-merger elements in the Congress parties. Besides, the other constituents, including the Socialist Republican Party factions, were openly indulging in accusations and counteraccusations. These developments were eroding the confidence of the rank and file of the front's constituents in the Congress(I) leadership, the CPM leader asserted.

CSO: 4600/1243

GANDHI SPEAKS AT ARMY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Nov 82 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi on Tuesday lauded the good work done by the army in maintaining a vigil on our borders and in aiding the civil authorities during natural calamities and the maintenance of law and order, reports PTI.

Addressing the biannual Army Commanders conference, she said all efforts were being made to improve the career prospects and service conditions of army personnel, keeping in mind the limited resources of the country.

The Prime Minister said the army, being a well integrated organisation, could play a major role in national integration and in strengthening the unity of the country.

Referring to the difficult foreign exchange position, Mrs Gandhi stressed the need for indigenising the production of defence equipment.

Welcoming the Prime Minister Chief of the Army Staff Gen K V Krishna Rao, assured her of the preparedness of the army to deal with any threat to the security of the country.

Defence Minister R Venkateswaram, Deputy Defence Minister K P Singh Deo, Defence Secretary P K Kaul, Secretary (defence production) M C Sarin and scientific advisor to the Defence Minister Dr V S Arunachalam were present.

The conference, presided over by Gen Krishna Rao is being attended by Lt Gen T S Oberoi, GOC-in-C Southern Command, Lt Gen A S Vaidya, GOC-in-C Eastern Command and other senior officers.

During their seven-day Conference, the army commanders will discuss various operational and logistic matters pertaining to the army.

CSO: 4600/1258

GANDHI SCORES 'MISCHIEVOUS' AGENCY REPORT ON SPEECH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Oct 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 28.—The Prime Minister today described an "incorrect and even mischievous" agency report (not PTL) that "the pro-Centre States had a prior claim to the best Central attention", reports PTL.

In a statement here, Mrs Gandhi said: "At no time or place, either during this election campaign in Nagaland or any other, have I said that only those working for the Congress would be helped".

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said that the Government had helped all State Governments, irrespective of the parties running them, add UNL He clarified the report of a speech Mrs Gandhi had made during her recent election campaign in Nagaland.

The report had said Mrs Gandhi indicated that pro-Centre States had a prior claim to the best Central attention. He said that "the Prime Minister's attention has

been drawn to a news report which appeared in a section of the Press on October 24, 1982, and she said it was "incorrect and even mischievous". Nagaland is a sensitive and strategic area with special problems. At no time or place, either during this election or any other, had she said that only those working for the Congress would be helped. The Government has helped all State Governments regardless of the ruling party there.

"As Mrs Gandhi was speaking on behalf of the Congress, she naturally appealed to the people to vote for the Congress candidate, adding that Congress candidates would be more effective since they believe in and would implement our special programmes for the tribal and hill people and weaker sections. However, her stress was on the importance of the unity of the country, the advantages of a national party as opposed to a regional party".

CSO: 4600/1231

MANEKA GANDHI ACTIVITIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Oct 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 28.—Mrs Maneka Gandhi is reported to be making strenuous efforts to project the image of her "Sanjay Vihar Manch" in Andhra Pradesh with an eye on the coming State Assembly elections there in February.

Mrs. Maneka Gandhi and the Manch convenor, Mr Akbar Ahmed, have already met in Delhi, Bombay and elsewhere a large number of Congress (I) M.P.s and other senior Congress (I) leaders of Andhra Pradesh, who nurse grievances against the party High Command and are said to be turning dissidents. They are also meeting leaders of other parties to enlist their support for the Manch.

Mrs Maneka Gandhi's main target is, of course, the Congress (I) dissidents. In the last few days,

she has met in Delhi at least six Congress (I) M.P.s. A former prince of a small princely State of Andhra Pradesh and an alleged supporter of Mr T. Anjiah was reported to have recently come to Delhi to meet Mrs Maneka Gandhi.

Mr Akbar Ahmed's brother, Mr Ezzar Ahmed, who is associated with an industrial house in Hyderabad, was also reported to have contacted an important Congress (I) leader in Vijayawada, a supporter of Mr Anjiah, and known to be "a maker of Chief Ministers, with huge finances at his disposal".

Sanjay Vihar Manch leaders are also reported to have met and sought the support of a former Socialist leader, Mr Eadri Vishai Pitti, and the Janata Party president of Andhra Pradesh Mr Babul Reddy, in Bombay.

CSO: 4600/1231

RAJIV PROPOSED FOR CONGRESS-I PRESIDENCY

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct 28.

The move to elect Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as Congress (I) president, till now the subject of lively speculation, is now a serious proposition. Two State units have already announced their decision to sponsor a proposal to this effect and others are expected to follow.

On behalf of the Punjab Congress (I), its president, Mr. Hans Raj Sharma, today announced its decision to propose Mr. Gandhi's name for party presidency in the forthcoming organisational elections.

Two days ago, the Delhi PCC (I) adopted a resolution favouring Mr. Gandhi for the post of party chief. Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat, State unit president and Union Minister of State for Works and Housing, who announced the party decision, said Mr. Gandhi's stewardship would not only strengthen the party but also relieve Mrs. Gandhi of the organisational burden.

Some two months ago, Mr. Gandhi was all but appointed secretary-general of the party, a post held by Sanjay Gandhi in the past. His appointment was to be announced along with the re-constitution of the Congress (I) Working Committee and the Parliamentary Board but

was withheld at the last moment. The announcement of the new general secretaries was also deferred.

The five who were holding the office — Mr. Vasant Rao Patil, Mr. G. K. Moopanar, Mr. Chandulal Chandrasekar, Mr. Satyanarayana Rao and Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bajaj — it was stated, would continue to function till permanent arrangements were made. Even at this stage the "permanent arrangements" were expected to include Mr. Gandhi's induction as secretary-general.

After a while, there appeared to be a change in the thinking and, as a result, Mr. Gandhi's name began to be mentioned for party presidency. It was at this stage that the decision was taken to go in for organisational elections.

According to the time-table announced earlier, the organisational elections are to be completed by January 20 next. Later, it was considered necessary to postpone the poll in the States that were due to have Assembly elections. According to the latest thinking, the election process — including the election of new president — would be completed by April next year.

CSO: 4600/1233

CHARAN SINGH: FOREIGN POWER BEHIND PUNJAB CRISIS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Oct 82 p 4

[Text]

JAIPUR, Oct. 30.

LOK DAL Chief Charan Singh said here today that there was some foreign power behind the Punjab crisis.

Some foreign power was active to disintegrate the country, he asserted while addressing a press conference.

When asked to name the foreign power, Mr Charan Singh refused to reply categorically, but amidst laughter, added: 'This is a 64-dollar question.'

'I do not consider the Sikhs as a minority community,' he asserted. Clarifying his stand, he reminded that they were not different from the Hindus.

Retelling the historical perspective, especially of Guru Govind Singh, etc, Mr Charan Singh said that the Sikhs and the Hindus believed in the same fundamental philosophy.

The Lok Dal leader revealed that during the Janata regime also he had given the same logic to the Sikh leaders, including Mr Prakash Singh Badal and Mr Surjeet Singh Barnala at the time of the Minority Commission issue. The Sikh leaders had no counter-logic and the issue was settled without any agitation, he added.

The former Prime Minister wanted that none should yield to these pressures as it would lead to dire consequences like formation of 'Khalistan'.

Once demands like declaring a

city holy is accepted, it would be echoed throughout the country, he apprehended.

The Lok Dal leader was of the firm opinion that to fight the virus of regionalism, casteism and linguistics, no party should be allowed to work by making a community, region, caste or language as their main base. This approach should be applied to the parties like the Muslim League, Akali Dal, Hindu Maha Sabha and Telugu Desam etc.

He reminded that with the dawn of independence, the Constituent Assembly had passed a resolution to this effect.

PARTIES BLAMED

Mr Charan Singh blamed all the political parties in the country for spreading the virus of casteism. The ruling Congress-I was the most responsible for such a practice, he added.

As a remedy, Mr Charan Singh proposed that inter-State marriages be made compulsory for gazetted officers who were unmarried at the time of commissioning. He said no educational institution should be named after caste or religion.

Replying to a question he said his sons and grandsons had married in other castes.

On the language issue, he said he wanted one national language.

DELHI STRESSES NEED TO FULFILL OIL PRODUCTION TARGETS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 82 p 5

[Text]

THE Government has asked the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and the Oil India limited (OIL) to achieve the production target for crude oil "without fail", reports UNI.

The production target for the current year is 20.5 million tonnes.

They have also been told to gear up and ensure fulfilment of the seismic and other surveys and drilling targets.

These decisions were taken at the recent performance review meetings of the oil companies in Bombay and Dehradun, presided over by Energy Minister P Shiv Shankar.

The performance of the various oil refining and market companies including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, Madras Refineries, Cochin Refineries and Indo-Burma Petroleum, came under close scrutiny.

It was also decided to establish additional computer facilities to process seismic data within the country.

The oil refining and marketing companies were directed to adhere strictly to time schedules for completion of various expansion and other projects.

Another important decision taken at the meeting was the setting up of special task forces to implement the recommendations of the Petroleum Conservation Research Association and increase the efficiency in the use of hydrocarbons.

It was decided that agreements for supply to dealers and

distributors, who are indulging in malpractices, should be cancelled promptly. A number of steps were identified to check malpractices like short-delivery and adulteration of petroleum products.

Following are the other decisions arrived at the meeting with the oil refining and marketing companies:-

—New technologies for increasing the production of middle distillates (kerosene and high speed diesel) should be carefully studied for implementation.

—Special studies on energy conservation schemes in the refineries must be expedited.

—Advance action should be taken to bottle and market large quantities of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) that would be available in the next five years.

—To alleviate hardship faced by LPG users, may be permitted to have a second cylinder in areas with transport and other problems that will take time to overcome.

—Oil companies will intensify their efforts in educating the consumers about LPG safety precautions.

—Special training should be arranged for the delivery men of the distributors.

—It will be the responsibility of the distributors to ensure the efficiency of the delivery men.

JANATA MP INTERVIEWED ON RETURN FROM ISRAEL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Oct 82 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, Janata M.P., by TIMES, on 30 October in Bombay: "55 Indians Held in Lebanon"]

[Text]

BOMBAY, October 30.

THE Israeli army had captured 55 Indians in the employ of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) during its recent action in Lebanon.

This was stated by the Janata M.P., Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, who returned from Israel today, in an exclusive interview to this paper. He had been to Israel on a five-day visit at the invitation of the government there.

Dr. Swamy, who had a meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Menachem Begin, said the Indians were functioning as full-fledged soldiers of the PLO and they were currently in detention camps of the Israeli army in Lebanon.

The M.P. quoted Israeli foreign office officials as saying that they had urged the Indian authorities to take charge of the Indian partisans, but so far there has been no response from the government here.

The Israeli government has furnished the M.P. with the list of Indian prisoners and they include Mohanlal Bhaktram, Joginder Singh, Prakash Chand, Kannan Subramaniam, Arunachalam Kandaswamy Thevar, Veera-

swamy Swaminathan, Mubarak Mohammed, Chaman Lal, and Shafi Mohammed.

Apart from Mr. Begin, Dr. Swamy had wide-ranging discussions with the chairman of the Knesset (parliament) committee on defence and foreign affairs, Dr. Elyahu Ben-Eliav, director-general, ministry of foreign affairs, Dr. David Kimche, the ex-prime minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, and others.

DIPLOMATIC TIES

Dr. Swamy said he had gathered material regarding the performance of the F-16 combat aircraft, which the U.S. is selling to Pakistan, and about Soviet weaponry used by the PLO and Syria in their war with Israel. These he will present at the next meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee at which the focus will be on "modern technology in defence."

Dr. Swamy said Mr. Begin and others were keen on normal diplomatic relations with India which, they felt, should not come in the way of New Delhi's ties with the Arabs. India and Pakistan had fought wars in the past, nevertheless they continued to have regular diplomatic relations.

Israeli and Indian perceptions about the Palestinian problem and other issues may differ widely, but this was no reason why full-fledged diplomatic ties should not be established, Dr. Swamy quoted Mr. Begin as saying.

Israel was keen on offering Kfir fighter aircraft and the Merkava battle tank developed by it, besides technology relating to drip and sprinkler irrigation, solar energy, and desalination.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Dr.

Swamy said the Israeli prime minister had given him a five-page note. The Israeli government was willing to let the Palestinians settle in the West Bank and other areas and have total control on all matters except defence and external affairs.

About widespread protests within Israel over its recent action in Lebanon, Dr. Swamy said the protest was more against the excesses committed on the civilian population of Beirut and other areas than on the action in Lebanon.

PAK N-BOMBS

Persons like Prof. Yoram Ben-Porath, economics professor at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, who are activists of the "peace now" campaign are at present mobilising support in favour of a "negotiated peace."

One of the points raised by Dr. Swamy during his talks with Mr. Begin was the reported development of a nuclear bomb by Pakistan and the possibility of Israel repeating its pre-emptive strike on the Osirak reactor in Iraq. Mr. Begin declined to be drawn into a discussion on this topic, Dr. Swamy said.

Asked about criticism here about his Israeli visit, Dr. Swamy said it was based on fallacious presumptions and the inability or refusal on the part of the critics to recognise international real-politik and its undercurrents. He said that Mrs. Pramila Dandavate, Janata M.P., and a socialist, had also visited Tel Aviv in the early 70s and held discussions with Israeli officials.

SIKH YOUTH 'HARDLINERS' FORM NEW FEDERATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 82 p 7

[Text] Amritsar, Nov. 1 (UNI)--Sikh youth hardliners today launched a new organisation, the Akal Students and Youth Federation, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr Jasjit Singh Khalsa said a two-member committee comprising himself and Kashmir Singh had been formed to draw up to constitution and programme of the organisation.

Asked the aim of the new party when the all India Sikh Students Federation and some youth organisations already existed, he said the new organisation would strive to maintain sanctity and supremacy of the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, and maintain the old Sikh tradition of preaching Sikhism.

An independent organisation, it will support programmes for the welfare of Sikhs initiated by the Akali Dal or any other Sikh organisation, he said.

Mr Khalsa said the organisation had urged the Akali leadership not to arrive at any compromise with the Centre on the issue of the Anandpur Sahib resolution. He gave a call to Sikh students and youth to attend the convention called by Akali Dal president Harchand Singh Longowal here on 4 November for a new line of action if their demands were not accepted by them.

Meanwhile, the All India Sikh Students Federation has urged the Government to concede all the demands of the Akali Dal 'to safeguard national integrity and unity.'

In a statement issued here today Mr Harminder Singh Sandhu said if the Government failed to satisfy the Sikh masses, it would only encourage separatist elements.

He said the federation has sent to the Centre two more lists, of federation activists who are on bail in various criminal cases and are declared proclaimed offenders.

Third list includes proclaimed offender Rajender Singh Mehta who carries a reward of Rs 25,000 on his head is also involved in seven criminal cases. The lists have been sent to Delhi to enable the Government to withdraw cases.

UTTAR PRADESH LEADERS DECLARE SUPPORT FOR MANEKA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, October 30. Mrs Maneka Gandhi failed to turn up at a press conference called by her this afternoon to announce the entry into the Sanjay Vihar Manch of a group of ex-student leaders and others hailing from Uttar Pradesh and belonging to different political parties.

However, those who had come from U.P. introduced themselves to the newsmen and issued a joint statement proclaiming their "full support" to Mrs Maneka Gandhi "in her fight against prevalent evils and misrule" and in her endeavour "to give a new lead and direction to the country."

Among the dozen new entrants present at 12, Park Road, the venue of the press conference, was Mr Hari Shankar Safriwala. He was introduced as one who had been to jail at least 31 times. He was a secretary of the "police parishad" in U.P. which, he claimed to have ousted the state government headed by Mr Kamalapati Tripathi in the aftermath of the police revolt.

The formality of introducing the new members from U.P. was completed by Mr Shyam Krishna Pandey, former president of the Allahabad Students' Union and who is quitting as working secretary of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan to join Mrs Maneka Gandhi.

Mr Pandey told newsmen that a group of 65 persons met in Lucknow in mid-October to discuss the political situation and decided to join Mrs Maneka Gandhi. They told her so when she visited Lucknow recently.

Among those present were Mr Dinesh Chandra Srivastaya, ex-president of the Gorkapur Students' Union and successor to Mr Kalpnath Raj in that post. He claimed having been jailed at least 20 times. Like Mr Safirwala, Mr Srivastaya too has been imprisoned under the Preventive Detection Act, the defence of India rules, MISA and other laws.

Mr Pandey said, "We have not contested at the legislative forum but participated in various movements and struggles against the establishment."

The others introduced today were Mr Satish Kumar Aggarwal, ex-general secretary of the All-India Samajwadi Yuva Jan Sabha, Mr Tejpal Singh, vice-president of the Congress (S) in U.P. and member of the state parliamentary board, Sardar

Bamt Singh, general secretary in U.P. of Mr Chandrajit Yadav's Janawadi Party, Mr Mohammad Haroon Siddiqui, chairman, U.P. minorities' forum, launched by Mr H.N. Bahuguna of the DSP. Mr Devender Singh, member of the national council of the Janata Party headed by Mr Chandrashekhar, Mrs Raji Tandon, convenor, U.P. Congress(S) Mahila Samiti, Prof. B.B. Nigam, head of the department of physics, Awadh University, and Mr Sabir Hussain, former general secretary of the U.P. Youth Congress (undivided).

Mr Pandey said that Mrs Maneka Gandhi will be visiting Allahabad on November 11 to address a rally where 30 other state and district level leaders will declare themselves as her followers.

CSO: 4600/1240

GOVERNMENT STAND ON AKALI DEMANDS REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy: "Religious Demands May Be Conceded"]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.

The Centre is prepared to concede almost all the religious demands of the Akalis and consider the political issues raised by them once the agitation is withdrawn and a proper atmosphere created for a dispassionate discussion of their grievances.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who has communicated this offer through her emissary, Mr. Swaran Singh, is awaiting the Akali reaction, before commencing the next round of talks with them.

The five-member Akali negotiating team has been assured that the Centre is ready to commence the implementation of the religious demands with some minor variations, without waiting for an accord on political issues which is bound to take some time since any understanding arrived at should be broadly acceptable to other communities and adjoining States, besides being in consonance with the basic structure of the Constitution.

The Akali demands, which have been reduced drastically from the original list of 45 to only 12, include the declaration of the walled city of Amritsar as a holy city. This in effect will mean closure of not only cigarette stalls and liquor booths but also meat shops in the vicinity of the Golden Temple to mollify both Sikh and Hindu sentiment. The existing shopkeepers who are affected by the decision will be duly recompensed by the Punjab Government through allocation of alternative sites in other important localities or payment of cash compensation.

Broadcast of Gurbani

The demand for broadcast of religious recitations directly from the Golden Temple poses no difficulties since the programmes could be relayed through a hook-up by the Jullundur station of All India Radio, without installing a special transmitter in the Temple for this purpose. The arrangement could be made on the basis of a token payment by the management of the Golden Temple.

The plea for renaming the Delhi-Amritsar "Flying Mail" as the "Golden Temple Express" poses no problem. But the concomitant suggestion that smoking should be banned on this train will create difficulties. The Golden Temple Express cannot be deemed to be for the exclusive use of non-smoking passengers, whether they are Hindus or Sikhs, since it would come in the way of a uniform application of railway regulations.

The question of carrying kirpans on domestic air services has already been settled with the tacit understanding that there should be no security objection to Sikh passengers taking on board as part of their personal attire sheathed knives not exceeding the prescribed minimum size. The bigger kirpans can be deposited with the crew for delivery at the destination of the flight.

The demand for the amendment of the All-India Gurudwara Act is of a politico-religious nature which has to be examined carefully to avoid the impression that the Centre has given the Akalis an undue weightage in establishing control over the major religious institutions of the Sikh community with all the political power that goes with it. But the Akalis continue to nurse the grievance that the Centre embarked on this legislation to indirectly deny and even deprive them of their traditional voice in the management of the major Panthic institutions. The Centre is, however, reasonably confident of evolving a formula that would meet the substance of the Akali demand without abandoning the principle of equity in the control of such religious institutions.

Constitutional complexities

It is the political demands of the Akalis that bristle with constitutional complexities arousing communal animosities and inter-State frictions, besides raising larger issues of Centre-State relations. The Centre has tried hard to impress on the Akali leaders, so far with little success, that these cannot be conceded in haste even with the best of intentions.

These include the demand for an early transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab without ceding the rich cotton-growing areas of Abohar and Fazilka to Haryana in compensation, as provided for in the 1970 award. Another equally prickly demand relates to the Akali insistence on the appointment of a commission to review and revise the 1981 Ravi-Beas award for the division of waters of these two rivers between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(PTI) quoted the Union Home Minister, Mr. P.C. Sethi, as saying that the Centre was prepared to concede one of the major demands — transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. The Centre was no more adamant on this and would have no objection in handing over Chandigarh to Punjab in case some amicable solution was found to the transfer of Fazilka and some other territories of Punjab to Haryana).

Similarly, the demand for the creation of a Greater Punjab by merging all the contiguous Punjabi-speaking areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan at the behest of the Akalis will lead to a reopening of the Pandora box of States reorganisation with equally serious consequences in other regions. The plea for the declaration of Punjabi as second language in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi will raise equally complex issues of linguistic jurisdiction.

The Centre is considering sympathetically the demand for the grant of proprietary rights to the Sikh farmers who cleared the malaria-infested marshes and forests in the tarai area of UP and developed it into one of the most prosperous agricultural belts in the country after partition. But here again there has to be an all-India policy on making exceptions on such legitimate grounds in the application of land ceiling laws and other local restrictions.

The Akalis have also been pressing for the transfer of the management of Bhakra Dam to Punjab which amounts to abandonment of the

Central control on it. The demand has not been rejected, although some strong reservations have been expressed over it.

The last one, relating to the release of Akalis facing prosecution for serious offences, is being met half way by withdrawing some cases. The others can be set free only after the withdrawal of the agitation if their release would help to pacify the ruffled feelings and pave the way for a final settlement of the Akali problem.

The tragedy of this agitation has been that it has already done immense harm to Hindu-Sikh relations by not only embittering feelings between the two communities which have so much in common, but also inhibiting the Hindus from making further investment in Punjab and even leading to a flight of capital to other States. As nearly 30 per cent of the Sikhs live outside Punjab, it has exposed them to the dangers of discrimination and even victimisation in other States in the event of all the Akali demands being conceded by the Centre.

Conciliatory gestures

The Akali insistence on acceptance of at least the spirit and substance of the Anandpur Sahib resolution would amount to the grant of full autonomy to Punjab except in the matter of foreign affairs, defence and communications. It will raise much larger issues relating to Centre-State relations, posing a big question mark over the very structure of the Constitution.

It is against this background that Mrs. Gandhi has been making a series of conciliatory gestures and sending private messages to the Akali leaders to view the interests of the Sikh community in the larger national context and she feels reasonably reassured by the response of the moderates among them, while continuing her efforts to persuade the hardliners to accept a fair settlement.

RAJIB COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL FOR PARTY POST

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Oct 82 p 4

[Text]

VARANASI, Oct 30 (UPI) — Mr Rajiv Gandhi, MP said here today that he had not yet decided whether to contest election for the party presidency.

Mr Gandhi, told newsmen at the airport, that the talk about his standing for the party presidency was started by newspapers from your side, he said.

Mr Gandhi said it was also not correct to say that he had been offered the post of party president.

When a reporter pointedly asked if he would contest the election for party presidency in the near future, Mr Gandhi replied that it was true the party elections were due to be held soon. Any party worker could contest them. There was nothing new in it, he added.

Asked if youth would get more chance, in his party Mr Gandhi replied that there was no question of making any commitment on the subject. If young talent was available, it could be accommodated, he said.

Replying to another question, Mr Gandhi said the present system of Government was going on very well and there was no talk of switching over to the much talked about presidential system.

On the Bihar Pledge Bill, Mr Gandhi said pressmen had objected to five clauses. These could be discussed and differences settled, Mr Gandhi added.

There was no question of any rigidity from the Government side, he added.

CSO: 4600/1241

SANJAY VICHAR MANCH FORMED IN KARNATAKA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Oct 82 p 4

[Text]

BANGALORE, Oct 30—A formal announcement of formation of Sanjay Vichar Manch in Karnataka has been made here yesterday by former KPCC-I general secretary S M Ganesh Raj who resigned from the primary membership of the party last week.

Addressing a press conference here Mr Ganesh Raj declared "we have the support of thousands of local Congress-I workers behind us and before Mrs Maneka Gandhi visits Bangalore on 18 November, we are going to enrol more than 10,000 members".

Mr Ganesh Raj said the "manch which certainly is a political movement will form itself into a political party by December this year." He claimed that he was being "contacted by many Congress-I MLAs, DCC-I presidents and MPs" but they had asked him to keep their names "under cover".

Asked whether there were any ministers among them, he replied "some five-six ministers have contacted me but I cannot disclose their names at this juncture".

Mr Ganesh Raj while criticising the Gundu Rao Government said "while Mr Gundu Rao became Chief Minister with the blessings of late Sanjay Gandhi, his Government has forgotten Sanjay Gandhi's five-point programme."

He said "when Mrs Maneka Gandhi comes here I expect Mr Gundu Rao to extend his cooperation keeping in mind that she was the widow of late Sanjay".

In this regard he also said that he would write to Mr Gundu Rao seeking his cooperation and would also extend an invitation to him to attend the public meeting to be addressed by her.

CSO: 4600/1241

BOMBAY MEETING EXAMINES INDO-AFRICAN TRADE TIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Oct 82 p 13

[Text]

BOMBAY, October 26 (HNS) A very much interested in establishing and increasing trade relations with African countries and while the trade with countries like Kenya, Zambia is progressing well that with Senegal and Cameroon has to be established with more efforts, said Mr. Bishwendra H. Mehta, vice-president, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (Western region).

Talking at a meeting organised by the federation here under the aegis of the Indian exporters and the 7-member trade mission from Africa, Mr. Mehta said the visit should be helpful to identify areas of common co-operation to further strengthen trade relations.

Mr. Michael C. Seta, the Zambian representative, complained that most of the Indian companies doing business in Zambia have created an atmosphere of suspicion by preferentially employing people of Indian origin and overlooking interests of the local people. He requested Indian exporters not to treat Zambia as a dumping ground for their goods. Lack of credit facilities from India was also a discouraging factor, he added. When an Indian exporter explained that they had to work under certain government restrictions, Mr. Seta said "when India can manage to overcome this difficulty, why could others not do so".

Mr. M. N. Anshong, Cameroon representative, said there had not been much trade between India and his country. "We buy finished goods from Europe as also from India and Indian goods are cheaper. We are particularly interested in technology and joint ventures."

The Kenyan representative, Mr. A. O. Mwenya, said there was no reason for Indian businessmen to lose their confidence in his government's decision was not against Indian businessmen but for all businessmen indulging in speculation. He said his country's import policy was liberal and there existed export credit facilities. Kenya had a long-standing friendship with India because of proximity and good air transport facilities, he added. He suggested to Indian businessmen to export fertilisers in exchange for coffee. He preferred setting up in Kenya small-scale units by Indian businessmen.

The Zambian representative also informed that his country wished investment in agriculture. "There is a good labour force and land is free with 99-year lease."

Mr. Omar Ben Kharab Sekhine of Senegal said his country was in a position to trade in groundnut, groundnut oil, fish, fish products, cotton etc. It could import rice, food products, fuel, oil, pharmaceuticals, vehicles etc. he added.

Mr. Jean-Marie Ndabire of Ethiopia, who is the leader of the mission, explained that the delegation visit was a follow-up action of the Economic Commission of Africa's decision to promote trade between non-aligned countries.

Earlier in the day, the mission had a meeting with members of the Indian Merchants' Chamber where the mission leader stated that India could export its technicians and consultants to give a fillip to the economies of African countries.

RESERVE BANK ANNOUNCES NEW FIXED DEPOSIT RATE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.—The new fixed deposit rate—11% for a five-year deposit—announced for banks by the Reserve Bank from today is in response to widespread criticism that the interest rate structure in India was not keeping up with world trends.

Bank interest rates have risen sharply all over the world in the past few years and both the cost and benefits of deposits have gone up. In India, however, the maximum rate allowed was 10% for fixed deposits for periods of three years or more.

The result was that deposits grew slowly owing to the diversion of investible funds to companies which still offer much more than the new bank rate. Deposits with companies for three years fetch more than 15% a year.

Pressure was exerted on the Reserve Bank to increase the interest rate by the chief executives of banks for the past several months when it became evident that the growth rate of deposits would be far below the target and make bank resources more scarce.

Similar pressure came from investors who were reluctant to invest their funds in companies owing to the uncertainty over their future and the poor record of some of them. In recent years, some companies which have invited de-

posits have not been able to pay them back though most have done so. The Government does not guarantee repayment of company deposits, nor does it compel them to do so.

The easing of credit restrictions announced by the Reserve Bank is marginal and does not go across the board as sought by industry, which has been claiming for a long time that a recession has set in because of reduced demand as a result of the lack of credit.

The Government's view is that there is no general recession. It admits that certain sectors have been hit by lack of demand. In line with this view, the Reserve Bank has now eased credit restrictions selectively to promote demand in such affected sectors as tractors and commercial vehicles.

The official view is that credit restrictions remain to contain inflationary pressures. Even though inflation is now in check—the annual rate is 3%—the Government feels there is need for a constant vigil.

CSO: 4600/1223

INDUSTRIALISTS HAIL NEW RESERVE BANK CREDIT POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 26 (UNI). — **LEADING** industrialists today welcomed the new credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) yesterday, but were not totally happy with the relaxations.

They welcomed without any reservation by the industrialists and economists here.

Mr. D. C. Kothari, leading industrialist, said the new policy was a good beginning. "The industrialists have been asking for such a step since a long time. It is good that the government has realised that without liberalised credit policy, the economy will be heading for a deep recession," he said.

The authorities were "over-cautious," they felt. Further relaxation could have been made without, in any way, subjecting the economy, or strain, they said.

Mr. Ramesh Singh, president of the Associated Chamber of Commerce, noted that the liberalisation had been done retaining the basic features of credit discipline. With inflation under control, the RBI could have restructured the interest rates to provide a measure of relief to the borrowers. This could have been done at least for term loans to ensure that the investments picked up.

EXTRA FACILITIES

He welcomed the additional facilities provided to important sectors like the export sector, state electricity boards, and transport and agricultural sectors. The sluggishness in the auto ancillary and engineering sectors could be reduced thanks to the liberalisation of buyers credit for the automobile and tractor industries, he said.

Madras (PTI) The credit policy has

PICKING UP EXPORTS

Mr. B. Natarajan, a noted economist, said the new policy would instil optimism among exporters as well as manufacturers. It would certainly help to lift the recession to a great extent.

Mr. P. Elango Shetty, former president of the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, said the decision to aid the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the state electricity boards was a welcome step. This would give a fillip to the electricity boards projects, which were badly affected by financial constraints. With the IDBI assistance, the boards would be able to get more finance, he said.

The assistance to the transport corporations, proposed under the new policy, would help the automobile industry, which was now crippled with demand sluggishness, he said.

INDIA

PLANNING COMMISSION SETS UP IRON, STEEL PANEL

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Oct 82 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 27. The Planning Commission has set up a working group on iron and steel to prepare the broad long-term profile of steel demand and the development programme of steel industry up to the turn of the century. According to official sources, the group is expected to submit its report around the middle of next year.

Besides, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to establish a centre for engineering and technology as an in-house design organisation.

The centre will take up preparation of feasibility report, detailed project report and techno-economic studies relating to projects involving plant modifications, revamping and additions.

Owing to inadequate and irregular supply of power, production of salable steel by SAIL plants has been considerably affected between April and September this year.

According to the sources, the SAIL plants produced 2.55 million tonnes of salable steel during the period against 2.64 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

These plants suffered loss of 3.21 lakh tonnes of production during the period on account of power constraints.

Other factors responsible for the production shortfall were high ash content in coking coal and break-down of equipment in some cases.

Efforts are now being made to restrain the downtrend in production and increase the production in the next six months.--PTI

CSO: 4600/1228

SUGAR PRODUCTION REPORTED TO EXCEED PLAN TARGET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Nov 82 p 9

[Text] The all-time record sugar production of 84.34 lakh tonnes during the sugar year ending 30 September last has crossed the target of 76 lakh tonnes set for the last year of the current sixth Plan in 1984-85, reports PTI.

This record production owing to adequate availability of sugar-cane to mills, has also exceeded the present installed capacity of the sugar mills in the country which is of the order of 64.80 lakh tonnes. The sugar production exceeded by 134 per cent of the installed capacity, according to an official press release.

The production figure has bettered the previous record of 64.58 lakh tonnes in 1977-78 and the much reduced production of 51.42 lakh tonnes during 1980-81 sugar year.

Sugar production during the peak period of five months from December last to April this year was 64.95 lakh tonnes which incidentally bettered the record total production of 64.58 lakh tonnes during 1977-78.

Monthly production in January, February and March this year of 14.10 lakh tonnes, 13.54 lakh tonnes and 14.02 lakh tonnes respectively also exceeded the monthly record of 12.16 lakh tonnes registered in January last year.

Incidentally, the sugarcane production during the year also made a significant increase, the total touching a record 180 million tonnes despite the fact that the total area under it this year was less than the area covered in 1977-78 and 1978-79.

Despite liberal releases of levy and free sale sugar to consumers, the carry-over stocks of sugar as on 1 October this year were about 30 lakh tonnes--a little less than the previous best carry-over stocks of 33.36 lakh tonnes on 1 October, 1978.

CSO: 4600/1246

VISITING SOVIET YOUTH DELEGATION MEETS PRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Oct 82 p 10

[Text]

THE Young Communist League of the USSR and the Indian Youth Congress-I are to chalk out a joint strategy to mobilise youth for peace and disarmament.

Addressing a press conference in the Capital on Thursday, leader of a four member visiting Soviet youth delegation and first secretary of the Ukraine unit of the Young Communist League, Mr A Korienko, said that a conference between the two organisations would be held sometime next year to formalise the programme. The idea, he said had been mooted during the delegation's meetings with IYC-I leaders during its nine-day sojourn in India. The delegation visited India at the invitation of the IYC-I.

Mr Korienko also said that the meetings had raised prospects of

increased cultural contacts between the youth of the Soviet Union and India.

Speaking about his impressions after the stay in India, Mr Korienko said there were a lot of meeting grounds between the youth of the two countries over issues like nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of peace.

During their stay in the country, the delegation also visited Rajasthan and Bombay. At both these places, the members took part in tree plantation drives, which Mr Korienko said had imparted an interesting and educational experience to delegation members.

CSO: 4600/1234

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Nov 82 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.

A high-power delegation of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry is visiting Pakistan for ten days from November 8 to explore the possibilities of improving trade and economic relations.

The visit assumes significance in the context of the sharp decline in exports since 1978 when the trade agreement expired. It has been sponsored at the invitation of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The Indian delegation will study the scope for increasing exports and also arrangements for joint ventures in third countries.

The President of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce, Mr. V. P. Punj, who is to lead the delegation, told pressmen here that a delegation of this kind was going to Pakistan after 20 years.

Since 1978, the balance of trade had been

in favour of Pakistan. This was due to Pakistan's policy of allowing import of goods from India only through Public Sector agencies. Indian exports fell from Rs. 42.1 crores in 1977-78 to Rs. 84 lakhs in 1980-81. On the other hand imports from Pakistan went up from Rs. 24 crores to Rs. 84 crores in this period.

Recently, the Pakistan Government notified a list of 40 items in which its private sector could establish contracts and negotiate deals on their own with their counterparts in India but shipments had to be channelised through the Public Sector agencies concerned. Following this, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce invited the Indian delegation.

According to Mr. Punj the delegation would explore the possibilities of export in those 40 items and also in the 500 items included in the free list of imports into Pakistan.

He felt the personal contact and discussion between the representatives of private sector in the two countries would help improve trade relations.

CSO: 4600/1245

ENGINEERING DELEGATION RETURNS FROM EAST ASIA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Nov 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, November 1.

A 21-member delegation of the Federation of Engineering Industries of India has found good scope for Indian exports to China, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong.

After an 18-day tour of the countries, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Siva Paul, told newsmen in the capital today: "My impression is that there is scope for export of commodities as well as tie-ups in engineering consultancy services, particularly in Hong Kong, Korea and China."

However, Mr. Paul felt that India had to adopt an "aggressive" attitude to be able to promote these objectives.

CHINESE STRATEGY

China, he said, was slowly opening up to foreign investors and India should take advantage of it. Various laws and guidelines covering foreign

investment in China were being drawn up by the government.

The Chinese strategy was to utilise foreign capital and technology to accelerate the modernisation of their existing industrial infrastructure.

Mr. Paul remarked that there was ample scope for export of bicycles, which were the most popular means of conveyance in China.

He said that South Korean businessmen were keen on developing closer ties with their Indian counterparts. They were anxious to increase the two-way trade and explore the possibility of joint investments for third country export.

The federation agreed to establish relations with the Korean society for the advancement of machine industries and a formal memorandum of understanding would be signed shortly. It would then be possible for the two organisations to co-operate in various fields to mutual benefit.

CSO: 4600/1254

BRIEFS

TIES WITH PRC--New Delhi, October 22 (PTI & UNI)--India wishes to improve relations with China and to settle outstanding bilateral problems including the bilateral problems including the boundary question, amicably, Mr A.A. Rahim, the minister of state for external affairs, said in the Rajya Sabha today. He said India had taken a series of initiatives to this end including the holding of talks on the boundary question at the official level. Two sessions of the talks had already taken place. Referring to the recent remarks of the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, in an interview with an Indian correspondent two weeks ago that the Chinese government wanted to settle the Sino-Indian border issue, he said India had taken note of his statement. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Oct 82 p 13]

TRADE WITH PAKISTAN--New Delhi, October 22 (PTI)--The government of Pakistan has approved the import of 40 specified items from India by the private sector in Pakistan through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), pending the conclusion of a new bilateral trade agreement, according to a Pakistan embassy release. Trade between India and Pakistan has so far been handled in Pakistan by the public sector, and in India both by the state trading agencies and the private sector. The items for private sector import from India under the proposed arrangement include tea, wood and timber, betel leaves, specified chemicals, books on technical, professional and religious subjects, steel strips, viscose fiber and yarn, calculators and calculating machines, lifts and escalators, ball bearings, compressors for air-conditioning plants and domestic refrigerators, fire engines, microscopes and other laboratory instruments, drilling rigs and some agricultural machinery items. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Oct 82 p 9]

PRC ARMS TO PAKISTAN DENIED--Bhubaneswar, October 26 (UNI)--The Government has no information about China supplying arms to Pakistan, the deputy defence minister, Mr K.P. Singhdeo, said here yesterday. He told newsmen that he had seen such reports only in newspapers. It was possible that the big powers manufacturing arms on a large scale had floated such reports to ascertain India's reaction, he said, and added: "We will not react." About Pakistan's acquisition of F-16 aircraft from the United States, he said sophisticated aircraft required sophisticated handling. "We need not worry about it," he added. Mr Singhdeo said India laid more stress on the training, discipline and morale of the armed forces than on the acquisition of better arms and equipment. Mr Singhdeo regretted that Pakistan had been spending more on arms than on development. He said India had been keeping a constant watch on the situation

created by the Falkland, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq wars, and accordingly reviewed its defence strategies through short and long-term plans. He said that India had recently increased its expenditure on research and development from the earlier two percent to four percent of the defence budget. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 Oct 82 p 7]

SOCIALIST PARTY REVIVED--Hyderabad, Oct 26 (PTI)--A group of 'friends connected with the socialist movement' meeting here on Sunday last has revived the Socialist Party which will follow the policy and ideals of late Dr Ram Manohar Lohia. The meeting set up a 18-member ad hoc committee, Mr B. Sudershan Reddy, convener of the party, told newsmen. He said a three-member subcommittee was also set up to frame the party's constitution. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 82 p 4]

NEW KERALA GOVERNOR--Trivandrum, Oct 27--Mr P. Ramachandran (61), former Union Minister and till recently chairman of the Food Corporation of India, assumed office as Governor of Kerala today succeeding Mrs Jothi Vencatachellum reports PTI. The acting chief Justice of Kerala High Court, Mr P. Subramonian Potti, administered the oath to Mr Ramachandran at a five-minute ceremony held in Durbar Hall of the State Secretariat. The ceremony, held soon after Mr Ramachandran's arrival here from Madras, was attended by the Chief Minister, Mr K. Karunakaran, his cabinet colleagues, the leader of the Opposition, Mr E.K. Nayanar, KPCC(I) president, Mr A.L. Jacob, M.P.s, MLAs, prominent citizens and officials. After the swearing in, the Chief Minister introduced his Cabinet colleagues, the leader of the Opposition and the Mayor to the Governor. Earlier, on his arrival from Madras, Mr Ramachandran was given a warm reception at the airport. He was also provided with a guard of honour. Mr Ramachandran is the eighth Governor of Kerala since the formation of the State in 1956. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Oct 82 p 1]

APPEAL TO BUDDHISTS--Nagpur, Oct 27--The Democratic Socialist Party president, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, today called upon the Buddhists and the down-trodden to unitedly launch a "non-violent revolution to usher in a Socialist State, where all would have dignified life and equal opportunities," reports PTI. Such a step would be a "real homage to Babasaheb Ambedkar, who led lakhs of his followers to the Buddhist fold to secure for them a dignified life," Mr Bahuguna said, while addressing as chief guest a huge gathering at the "deeksha-bhoomi" here, on the 26th anniversary of the Dharma Chakra Pravarthan Din--the day Ambedkar had embraced Buddhism. Presiding over the function, Mr R.S. Gavai, president of the Republican Party of India (G), called upon Buddhists to unitedly strive to build up the society, through constructive work. Earlier, Mr Sadanand Fulzele, secretary of the Ambedkar Smarak Samiti, said that the construction of a massive "stupa" of the Ambedkar Memorial would be completed within a year. Out of the RS 75 lakhs donation by the State Government, the society had received the first installment of Rs 15 lakhs, he added. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Oct 82 p 9]

SOVIET EDUCATORS' VISIT--A two-member Soviet delegation, led by Minister of education of the Armenian Republic of the USSR S.T. Ahumian arrived in the capital on Wednesday on a 10-day visit to India, reports UNI. The delegation, during its stay in India will acquaint itself with the educational system and various research programmes in this respect in the country. [Text] [New Delhi in English 28 Oct 82 p 7]

RAJIV COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT--New Delhi, Oct 28--Mrs Gandhi today reconstituted the executive committee of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (1) naming Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Sanjay Singh, Mr Arun Nehru and Mr Lokpati Tripathi among its 89 members. The newly-chosen president of the UPCC(I) is Mr Sukhdev Prasad, M.P. Mrs Gandhi also appointed a 15-member Parliamentary Board or Pradesh Election Committee for her party in the State. The board is composed of Mr Sukhdev Prasad, Mr Sripat Misra the Chief Minister, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, Mr Narain Datta Tiwari, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Mrs Sheila Kaul, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, Mr Kalpnath Rai, Dr (Mrs) Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Mr Dharam Veer, Mr Veer Bahadur Singh, Mr Amar Rizvi, Mr Mahavir Prasad, Mr Doongar Singh and the president of the Youth Congress(I). The new Pradesh Congress(I) Committee has 11 vice-presidents and six general secretaries. Among the vice-presidents are Mr Bishambhar Nath Pandey, M.P., a former PCC(I) chief, Mr Asad Madhi, Mr Laxmi Raman Acharya, Mr Jal Ram Verma, M.P., Mr Surendra Pal Singh and Mr Ram Chandra Vikal. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Oct 82 p 9]

COMMUNISTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH--Hyderabad, Oct 29--The AP State Council of the CPI and the State committee of the CPI-M have arrived at an agreement to contest jointly 100 seats in the forthcoming Assembly elections. The two parties stated that they would have no objection to electoral adjustments with Mr N.T. Rama Rao's regional party and other parties in order to defeat 'the anti-people' authoritarian rule of the Congress-I in the State. The secretariats of the two parties had joint meetings during the past two days at Vijayawada. They have agreed on a programme of immediate demands of the people of the State to launch a joint election campaign. Later in a statement state CPI-M secretary P. Sundarayya and state CPI secretary N. Giri Prasad said both the parties were also confident that their rank and file and well-wishers who stood for a left and democratic alternative would earnestly take this opportunity for renewed vigorous activity to bring about a political change in the State. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Oct 82 p 1]

EXPORTS TO GDR--A trade protocol between India and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for 1983 provides for 16 percent growth of Indian exports over 1982. The protocol signed at Berlin provides for a trade turnover of Rs 298.3 crores compared to Rs 258.8 crores in 1982. Exports from India were projected at Rs 150.8 crores and imports from GDR at Rs 147.55 crores. For the first time, eight new engineering products valued at Rs 7.5 crores have been added to our exports. GDR is expected to export machinery (Rs 73 crores), chemicals and fertiliser (Rs 61.5 crores) and miscellaneous (Rs 13 crores). India is expected to export agriculture, plantation and marine products (Rs 55.5 crores), leather and leather goods (Rs 41 crores) textiles (Rs 22.7 crores), minerals and ores (Rs 16.1 crores) engineering goods (Rs 13.8 crores) and miscellaneous (Rs 1.6 crores). Hindustan Machine Tools has already started dialogue on supply of machine tools to GDR. India's exports to GDR are estimated to have reached a figure of Rs 58.3 crores by September 1982 and imports at Rs 47.5 crores. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English Oct 82 p 5]

INDO-SOVIET YOUTH FESTIVAL--A Soviet youth delegation is scheduled to visit India towards the end of the year on the invitation of the Students Federation of India and the Democratic Youth Federation of India. Addressing a press conference on Saturday in the Capital, the SFI-DYFI leaders who just returned from Moscow said they have initiated discussions for holding an Indo-Soviet youth festival along with other youth organisations. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Oct 82 p 12]

SIKKIM MINISTRY EXPANDED--Gangtok, October 31--Two new ministers were sworn in yesterday at Raj Bhavan here, raising the strength of the Bhandari ministry to eight. Mr Chamla Tshering Bhutia, who was elected on the Congress(R) ticket and later defected to the Sikkim Janata Parishad, now the ruling Congress(I), has been made minister for agriculture, animal husbandry and irrigation. Mr Indra Bahadur Mimboo has been given charge of motor vehicles, mines and geology and survey and settlement. It is significant to note that not even a single legislator out of the 12 who had been pressing for the dropping of at least five ministers, attended the function, excepting the two who were sworn in. Thus clearly reflecting that the group is not satisfied with the measures taken by the chief minister. One of the legislators when contacted confirmed that ten of them had boycotted the function. The chief minister, questioned about the attitude of the legislators at a press conference held later, replied that if they were not satisfied they could still elect a new leader. A major reallocation of portfolios of other ministers was also announced. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Nov 82 p 7]

MANEKA DENIAL REPORTED--Kanpur, Oct 31 (PTI)--Mrs Maneka Gandhi today denied that she was going to form a political party in February next year. The time was "not ripe" as yet, she told newsmen at the civil airport here. Mr Akbar Ahmed, convener of the Samjay Vichar Manch, had told newsmen in Varanasi on 29 October that the Manch would start functioning as a political party from February. Accompanied by Mr J.N. Mishra and her brother, Mrs Maneka Gandhi later left for Gorakhpur. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Nov 82 p 9]

CPI-M POLITBURO STATEMENT--The arrest of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan by the Pakistan Government was on Sunday denounced by the CPM Politbureau. In a statement the party said the arrest of the oldest living leader of India's freedom struggle on the eve of President Zia's visit to India was an affront to all those who had fought the Raj. The statement demanded the immediate release of Frontier Gandhi. In another statement, the Bharat Khidmatgar Sanstha also condemned the arrest of Badshah Khan. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Nov 82 p 12]

KERALA'S 13TH DISTRICT--Trivandrum, Nov 1 (PTI)--Pathanamthitta, the thirteenth district of Kerala, come into being today, the 26th anniversary of the formation of the State. Carved mainly out of the districts of Quilon and Alleppey, the new district has a population of 10.80 lakhs and an area of 2672 sq. km more than half of which is forest land. The demand for the formation of a Pathanamthitta district has been there for over 10 years. It was on the understanding that such a district would be formed that Mr K.K. Nair, independent MLA, representing Pathanamthitta, gave his crucial support to the previous Karunakaran ministry which lasted for 80 days. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Nov 82 p 4]

SCIENTISTS TO PRC--Bombay, Oct 25.--A delegation from the Indian National Science Academy headed by Prof. M.G.K. Menon, president of the Academy and Member, Planning Commission, is leaving for China next month. The delegation will exchange views with the Chinese Academy of Science. It will consist of Mr C.N.R. Rao, Prof. Devendra Lal, Mr M.M. Sharma, Dr. P.K. Iyengar and Mr Achana Sharma. The tour will last for 10 days. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Oct 82 p 9]

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MRD ACCUSED OF SERVING INTERESTS OF SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS

Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu 3 Oct 82 p 8

[Commentary by Abdul Karim Abid: "Why Didn't MRD Condemn the Assassination of Bhopali"]

[Text] The greatest misfortune that can strike a society is the passing away, one by one, of high ranking personalities, with no one to replace them. We are today in the midst of such a sad predicament. The underlying reason behind this is the lack of conditions conducive to constructive evolution. We keep these personalities under a strict surveillance and no sooner we perceive indications of their surging towards fame, we close our eyes to their virtues and begin appeasing our fault-finding nature. Problems are not restricted to this state of affairs alone but have proceeded further. A new course of action has been started. We are now taking the valuable lives of important personalities with our own hands. Chaudhri Zahoor Elahie was sacrificed at the altar of this latest practice. This week the gathering that took place in Gujrat to mark the anniversary of his death can undoubtedly be said to be the largest political gathering of the current year. This political gathering was called neither by any political element nor any political party, but was the direct result of faith and attachment towards one person only. The striking characteristics of this gathering was that people belonging to various schools of thought from all over Pakistan participated in the proceeding of this gathering. Among those that attended the meeting were Prof Ghafoor Ahmed and Chaudhri Rahmat Elahie of Jamaat-e Islami and Muslim League leaders like Gohar Ayub and former General Faiz Ali Chishti. Azad bin Haidar, leader of the movement demanding separate status for Karachi and Narejo, leader of Jiye Sind Students' Union, federal ministers Ghulam Dastagir and Raja Zafrul Haq, Ehsanullah Waqqas and Jawaid Hasmi, leaders of the Punjab Youth Association were also present at this meeting. To say the truth, this gathering reflected the many-faceted personality of late Chaudhri Zahoor Elahie and was a p of that during his lifetime the ties of his friendly relationship extended over all the regions of Pakistan and many parties. Loss of a person of such caliber was indeed an irreparable national loss and people mourning this loss were duly justified in their action.

Most significant aspect of the gathering held to commemorate Chaudhri Zahoor Elahie's death was that most of the speakers seemed to be filled with a fire of vengeance and their attitudes seemed to suggest that if the government is incapable of taking any action then they should avenge themselves on the basis of life for life. These speakers warned terrorists, saying that if subversive activities did not stop, then it would not be possible for them to exercise restraint much longer and the vindictive actions could reach the very hearths and homes of trouble-makers. But some of the speakers seemed to be against retaliatory tendencies. Among these Mr Gohar Ayub's views seemed to be based on mature thinking. He said that we should strive to rid the country of violence and subversive tactics and make politics peaceful in every respect. Another speaker, Chaudhri Rahmat Elahie, also made a compassionate appeal and said that those people who were engaged in subversive activities and violence were harming themselves. This hatred will affect not only one faction but its flames will destroy the hearths and homes of all factions. Leaders of MRD [Movement for Restoration of Democracy] say they have no connection with violence and subversive activities and that the activities of the Zulfiqar faction do not have their approval. This may certainly be true, but the policy adopted by the MRD leaders of not condemning such activities openly in clear and unambiguous terms is causing concern in the minds of most people. What is most surprising is the fact that none of the MRD leaders made any statement condemning the assassination of Zahoor-ul Hassan Bhopali, nor did any of them take the trouble of going to his house to express his condolences. Begum Nusrat Bhutto is indisposed, but other leaders could have issued a statement on behalf of MRD condemning the incident leading to the assassination of a political figure and express their sympathies with the bereaved family members of late Zahoor-ul Hassan Bhopali. Such a statement issued by MRD would have helped in removing all doubts and misunderstanding regarding MRD. But despite all this, in the statement issued in the meeting of MRD that took place this week in Karachi not a single word was uttered about late Bhopali, as if his assassination had not occurred at all, or that it was not of any significance to deserve the attention of the politicians, and MRD's silence on this matter will be appropriate.

Some people believe that such subversive acts are bound to happen in the absence of political freedom and democracy. What really requires a serious thought is whether such subversive activities bring the cherished goal of political freedom and democracy any closer or, on the contrary, removes them further away. For whom are the subversive elements working? Are they serving democracy or are they leading the country towards a bloody fight which would further dissipate the possibilities of democracy? These are questions that deserve our serious attention.

If MRD is a democracy-loving organization and really wants democracy then it should come forward and, more than any other organization, should condemn this ill-omened chain of events in unambiguous and unequivocal terms. It is impossible to favour democracy and violence and subversion at the same time. MRD will have to choose between these two. Not being involved in subversion and violence is not enough. It is absolutely essential that MRD should declare its disgust at the subversive activities and violence obstructing peaceful efforts leading the path towards democracy and disavow any connection with its perpetrators.

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